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The Planet, 1995, Winter

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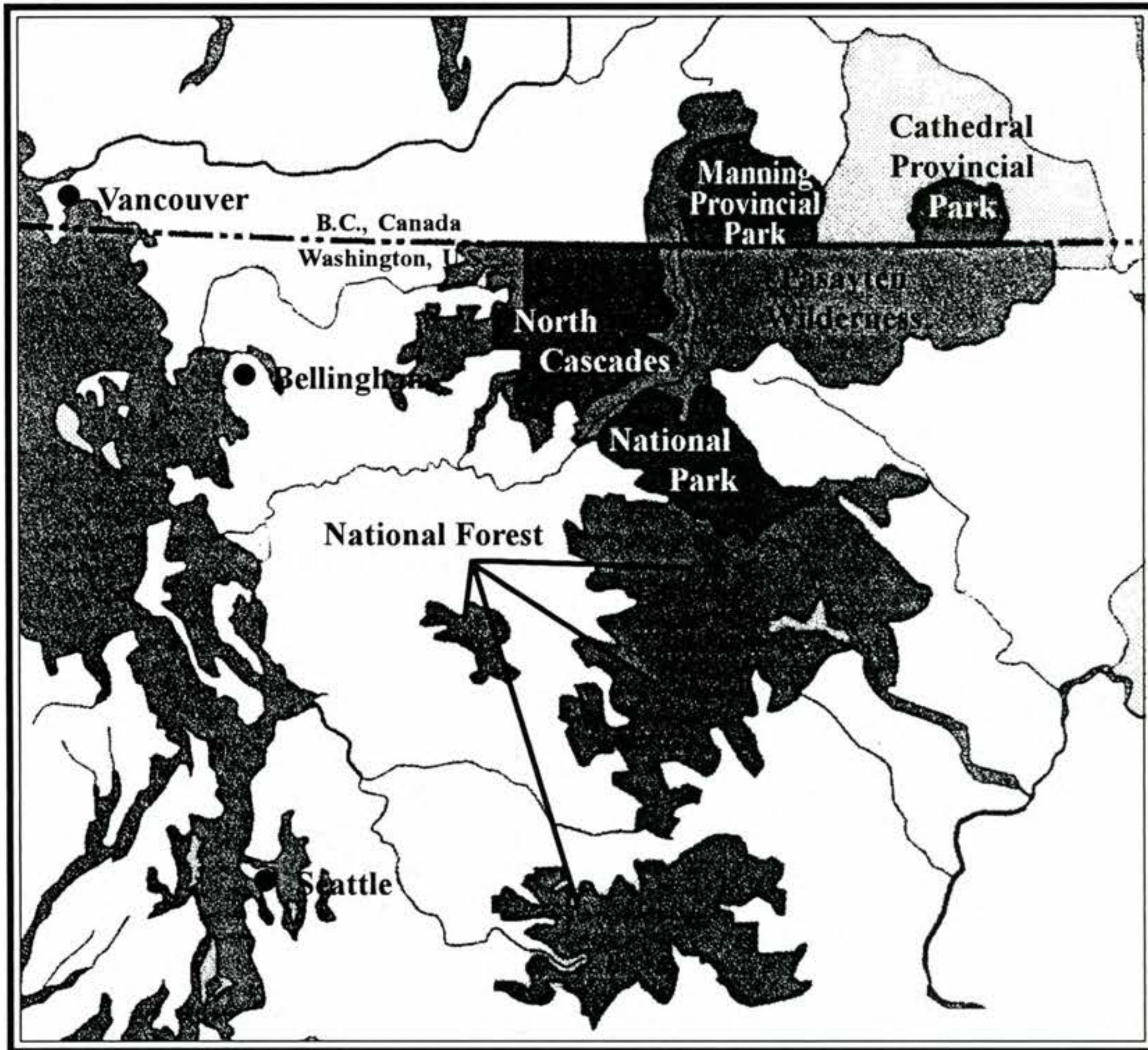


The Planet



THE NORTH CASCADES:
An Ecological Sanctuary Under Attack,
And the Move to Preserve it.

THE NORTH CASCADES



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Back cover by Mike Wewer.

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EDITORIAL

Darren Nienaber

Environmentalists of tomorrow face an unparalleled battle. Thirty years ago the media focused on a few animals, but the situation today is much grimmer, as we now face the loss of hundreds of animals.

The reason for this is now clear. There is very little space for animals to live. Lands have been converted to farms, tree plantations and rangelands. In this corner of the country environmentalists are focusing on preserving the land upon which plants and animals depend.

In this corner of the country environmentalists are working on protecting the North Cascades.

The move to protect this region - dubbed Cascadia, North Cascades International Park, or Peace Park - is one of the most important moves in this country to protect plants and animals from further destruction.

My own brother asked me, "Why should I care about an owl?" My response is simple - if they existed before we came here, then they have the right to exist after we leave here.

For economists, I will add that every loss of streamside vegetation means a loss to the sport and commercial fishing industries. Every logged forest

and filled wetland means more taxpayer and insurance money to pay for floods. Loss of estuaries means a loss to the shrimp, crab and clam industries. The list goes on.

There are some who say that the environmental movement has caused job losses. This is, fortunately not true. The movement has caused a job *shift*. Thousands of "green" jobs are open that were not before. Middle class jobs are now available to dozens of my friends and colleagues.

It is impossible to explain the reason for the creation of this park without understanding its national and global context. Before the colonization of North America there were approximately 60 million buffalo. Now there are 30,000. There were an estimated 100,000 grizzlies. Now there are about 2,000. There were about 500,000 wolves. Now there are about 2,200. There were an estimated 2 million big horn sheep. Now there are about 5,000. Roughly 50 percent of all wetlands have been filled in, 90 percent of all old-growth cut, and 99 percent of most prairie types destroyed. After grazing one prairie in New Mexico became an irrecoverable desert.

Many in the Northwest are surprised when they find out that the Cascades contains numerous endangered, threatened, and sensitive species: coho salmon, chinook salmon, grizzly bears, gray wolves, lynx, spotted owl, marbled murrelet, fisher, flammulated owl and pileated woodpecker, to name just a few. The concern for the forests of the Cascades goes far beyond protecting the spotted owl.

A line needs to be drawn somewhere.

Rumors abound about the park proposal. Indeed, misconceptions seem more common than accurate information. One ludicrous belief held by some in the Northwest is that the park is United Nations conspiracy to grab land forcibly remove about 200,000 residents. The theory's chief proponent is Don Kehoe, a Monroe landscaper. After thousands of hours



Scenic Mount Shuksan lies in the heart of the Cascades.

Peter Lewinsohn

of research, we found no evidence to support Kehoe's theories. Kehoe himself admits that he lacks substantive evidence, but continues to frighten many in the Northwest.

Another myth held by many is that this park would incorporate private property. According to our research, the proposal will not affect private property. It would not even incorporate Washington State land. The reason for this, as I see it, is that the politics of coordinating state lands with federal lands would be far too difficult.

I always wished I could see a woolly mammoth. Imagine what one looks like - a huge hairy elephant foraging through the ice and snow. The mammoth is gone now. We will never be able to see one, but for hundreds of other animals it is not too late. It would be a shame if my grandchildren have to ask me what wildlife looks like, because our negligence let hundreds of species go extinct.

The evidence is clear. Degradation of the land and the wildlife of this country is near total. The few remaining remnants ought to be protected. We have taken nearly everything from nature, so let's see if we can finally give something back.

Mother Nature does repair herself after a catastrophe. Mass extinctions are extremely infrequent and it is estimated that it takes 5 to 15 million years to recover a similar amount of diversity of life. Consider then, that for every year we are negligent in our protection of the earth, we are borrowing 10,000 years from the future.

Many features make the North Cascades a unique setting for an ecological sanctuary. The North Cascades have the largest concentration of glaciers in the lower forty eight states. The area gets world record snow falls, sometimes in excess of fifteen feet. The mountain slopes also protect dozens of sensitive species. Some of this land is already under wilderness protection, but most of these areas consist of rock and ice - useless to humans.

The proposal to create an international park in the North Cascades is still being developed. It is explored further (page 4) in this issue. Although the details are still being worked out, logging, mining, and grazing interests (the more ecologically destructive activities) are legitimately concerned about the park. The proposal will probably allow reduced amounts of these activities on portions of national forests.

The environmental groups developing the proposal are concerned about the effects on the rural communities (page 16) that would be most affected



Mike Weaver

Autumn mushrooms find a home on this downed tree.

by the creation of an international park.

The proposal will likely include support for these communities. The environmental groups have not been specific so far, which is unfortunate. I hope they will address these problems in the near future.

This is a long term plan. Many of the groups involved do not expect results for ten to fifteen years, and it will certainly take time to clear up any confusion.

In many areas of Europe, deer, rats and pigeons rank among the little "wildlife" that remains. If we wish to preserve plants for our future, then we will need larger ecological sanctuaries than what we have now.

This project is one of the important in the Northwest, and it is still in its early stages. It will gain increased media exposure in the months to come, so I recommend that you hold onto this magazine as a guide.

THE PROPOSAL:

To Protect the North Cascades, An International Plant and Wildlife Sanctuary.

It's a bright, crisp morning in the North Cascades. A snowshoe hare forages in a small meadow where the sun is waking up to warm the earth. Patches of snow give way to damp soil. The hare pauses. Its nose begins to twitch. The hare doesn't see the lynx hiding in the forest at the meadow's edge, but it begins to feel the lynx's presence. Before the hare can escape, the lynx pounces on it with oversized paws.

As the lynx enjoys its breakfast, its large, keen ears pick up sounds from the meadow and surrounding forest. Suddenly, the lynx hears distant voices uncommon in its high altitude habitat. It continues to eat cautiously. Minutes later, hikers appear at the Meadow's edge. The lynx freezes for a moment, then runs into the forest and quickly climbs a tree.

Once the hikers have gone, the lynx climbs out of the tree and makes its way through the forest. It reaches the Canadian forest and steps across it into a clear-cut. Its large paws sink into the muddy earth. Finally the lynx reaches a small patch of forest. It

curls up and falls asleep.

This ecosystem, home to the lynx, the grizzly bear, the gray wolf and many plants is called the North Cascades. It includes land in Washington and British Columbia. The North Cascades are managed by several different agencies that are responsible for many different things.

The North Cascades is an ecosystem that can't be pieced together like a jigsaw puzzle. It must be taken as a whole. To the lynx, grizzly bear, or gray wolf, agency and national borders are artificial.

According to Mel Turner, manager of planning for British Columbia parks, an International Park will improve the management in the North Cascades. "If we perceive the ecosystem as whole, then we will have to change our management strategies," Turner said.

As the management structure stands now, each individual agency sees borders around each of its territories. On the US side, the National Park Service manages North Cascades National Park and the two recreation areas; the Forest Service manages Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest. The International Park would help land managers to look at issues, such as the endangered grizzly bear, holistically. Ultimately, they could find new solutions and better ways to manage.

According to Bill Paleck, Superintendent of the North Cascades National Park, "People get better service from agencies that work together."

Paleck said that since he has been in office, the Forest Service and the Park Service have been working together better. In fact, the Ranger station off Highway 20 near Sedro Woolley is shared by parks and forest people who share information and equipment.

The Forest Service and Park Service



Erich Raudebaugh

Many of the protected wilderness areas consist of rock and ice.

have also coordinated their efforts to preserve the grizzly bear in the North Cascades. Biologists from every relevant federal agency, including the US Fish and Wildlife Service, worked together on a recovery plan for the grizzly.

In addition, the National Park Service and Forest Service coordinate management with the British Columbia government. The Forest Service, the Park Service and the Ministry of Parks all agree that British Columbia and Washington agencies cooperate well together. According to Turner, "The Canadian and American side of the North Cascades have exchanged interpreters at visitors' centers in both countries."

Turner and Paleck both said that the two countries coordinate grizzly bear and wolf recovery, fire management, and law enforcement. The Park Service and the B.C. Ministry of Parks meet annually to coordinate management strategies.

In the past, within our own borders, the Park Service and the Forest Service did not cooperate well together. The Park Service is a branch of the Department of the Interior. The Forest Service is a branch of the Department of Agriculture. These two different umbrellas have led to differences in philosophies and practices. For example, the Forest Service view trees as a crop, and the Park Service views trees as a part of a landscape used for recreation.

"Resource managers with the Forest Service may have to meet quotas for getting so many board feet cut at one assignment, promoting recreation at another and preserving wilderness at yet another," said Dr. Gundars Rudzitis, a University of Idaho professor who focuses on environmental/resource policy, migration and regional development. His comments were made at a conference on the protection and management of the North Cascades ecosystem in March 1994.

"The legislation setting up national parks created the recreation/ preservation conflict by not spelling out clearly which function was to be dominant," Rudzitis said.

With the possible exception of the Ministry of Forests in British Columbia, which operates solely for the purpose of resource extraction, most agencies involved with North Cascades, including the National Park Service and

the Ministry of Parks in British Columbia, struggle to balance multiple use of the land.

"One chief goal of the Fish and Wildlife Service is recovery of the grizzly bear, but some agencies don't want grizzlies on their land at all," said Charlie Vandemoore, a wildlife biologist for the Forest Service.

These differences lead to compromise. Vandemoore admits, "The recovery chapter for grizzlies is satisfactory, but I would've liked to see issues such as hound hunting and garbage in campsites more fully developed."

A collection of 15 environmental groups (Eight Canadian, seven American) called the Cascades International Alliance have been working to establish an International Park that would encompass a large portion of the North Cascades and create leg-



Erich Raudebaugh

One side of the border is clearcut, the other is not.

islative mandates on both sides of the 49th parallel directing numerous governmental agencies to cooperatively manage the area.

"The North Cascades ecosystem transcends the United States/Canadian border and so must the public protection and management of these valuable public lands," said Paul C. Pritchard, president of the National Parks and Conservation Association (NPCA). His comments were also made at the North Cascades conference.

"Ideally, what we'd like to do is say, 'Here are the objectives. We'd like you to adopt these and then we'd like you to set up planning teams and management teams and derive mechanisms to meet these objectives,'" said Dale Crane, director of the Pacific Northwest region of NPCA, during an interview in his office in Des Moines, WA.

"That poses a real problem," Crane added. "That problem is writing the objectives tightly enough

so that there is relatively little wiggle room on the part of the bureaucrats."

Evan J. Frost and Susan D. Snetsinger, two conservation biologists associated with the Greater Ecosystem Alliance, based in Bellingham, have presented a model outlining four major components for the proposed park.

The first is "a system of core reserves, managed primarily for their biodiversity values."

This core would include the North Cascades National Park, Ross Lake and Lake Chelan National Recreation Areas and seven wilderness areas on the US side of the border, and Manning and Cathedral Provincial Parks and Skagit Valley and Cascade Provincial Recreation Areas in British Columbia.

All the land involved in this and other parts of the park would continue to be managed by their present agencies.

"We started this with the idea that we wanted to maintain as much of the status quo on both sides of the border as we could," Crane said.

Only federal land will be included in the park proposal. No private land outside of federal holdings has been targeted to supplement the park, but the Forest Service and National Park Service do have the right to purchase in-holdings, if necessary.

The second component of the park model is a "gradation of buffer zones that surround reserves and insulate them from intensive land use activities, while still permitting compatible use within."

These special management areas would remain under the control of the Forest Service, Park Service and the Ministry of Forests in British Columbia.

"A piece of land cannot be managed in isolation, as all land areas are dependent upon their surrounding environments," said Lawrence Guichon of Gerard Guichon Ranch, LTD., British Columbia.

The third component is a series of "landscape linkages (or habitat corridors) which allow the movement of organisms and processes between reserves."

According to the Frost and Snetsinger report, "recent research on grizzly bears, for example, indicates that an area of suitable habitat on the order of 50,000 square miles may be necessary to ensure population viability. Such an immense area could not be contained within the North Cascades alone, but only through interregional systems of interlinked reserves."

The final component of the model, and per-



An old snag on a hillside.

Peter Lewinsohn

haps the most important and difficult one to implement, calls for "an overall landscape management plan that integrates these various elements."

It's gonna be a challenging thing to try and figure out how these agencies can cooperate given their different structures. They're the best ones to figure that out," said Mitch Friedman founder and director of the Greater Ecosystem Alliance. Snetsinger, a master's student at the University of Wisconsin, and the Sierra Biodiversity Institute's Peter Morrison, whom Friedman described as having an "extraordinary amount of expertise in computer analysis and North Cascades ecology," has been compiling a computerized scientific "gap" analysis of the North Cascades ecosystem.

"Gap analysis is a procedure for identifying underrepresented habitat and centers of species richness, and is the most effective means of determining what specific areas are in need of protection," according to the Frost and Snetsinger report. The project "will provide the data necessary for identifying which community types are the highest conservation priorities in the Greater North Cascades Ecosystem."

Data sets have been collected from governmental agencies such as the Ministry of Forests, Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the US Geological Survey.

"Once the scientific analysis is completed, the Alliance members will meet to discuss and solidify management objectives for the proposed park," Crane said.

"We're hoping to get a proposal out on the street this spring," Crane said. "That's when opponents are really going to start organizing against us."

Two thousand copies of the North Cascades conference booklet will be distributed. The booklet "lays the academic base for the ecology and the economics of the areas and what we can do to solve the problem," Crane said.

Opposition to the proposal already has been organized at the state level. On February 7, 1995, a group of six legislators (Sellar, Hargrove, A. Anderson, Owen, Hochstatter and Morton) introduced Senate Bill 5822.

The bill would bar any state agencies or local governments from participating in the planning or funding a North Cascades International Park and special management area proposal without prior legisla-



Erich Raudebaugh

The Cascades: home of diversity.

tive approval from the state legislature and Governor Mike Lowry, who endorsed the park proposal in July 1993.

At the federal level, the radical shift in political power on Capitol Hill last November dealt a serious blow to the legislative support for the park.

"This election has completely eliminated that support," Crane said. "It no longer exists. The power isn't there. The people who were willing to support it no longer have any authority to give legislation to the Congress."

For now, the Alliance will concentrate on educating, building a grass-roots movement and working with individual agencies to bring about institutional change.

"We're going to try and get the agencies to do the right thing," Crane said. "We've got a long term project here. We're going to have to try and get people to work together in governmental agencies and see if we can't get this moving. Politics may shift. If it does, we'll reassess."

The International Park can also help to im-



A sentinel hemlock stands before Mt. Shuksan.

prove the way B.C. lands are managed. Right now, the central core of Cathedral Park is privately owned. Leonard Fraser, who works for the Canadian Earthcare Society, said, "We hope to see B.C. Parks acquire this land soon."

An International Park could require more stringent management of Cathedral Park as well as other areas. A big portion of the North Cascades in British Columbia has been logged. Proponents of the International Park, including the Canadian Earthcare Society, are looking to place these areas under special management. These areas would be less protected than parks but more protected than they are now.

One of the most important issues right now in B.C. is the controversy over how much land can be protected. Jake Masselink, head of Parks Canada,

announced at the "Nature has no borders" conference in March of 1994, that 12 percent of British Columbia lands will be protected. This left hope for park proponents, who would like to see the Chilliwack area given park status.

However, Masselink considered this a maximum instead of a minimum quota and stated that special management areas and corridors are to be included in the 12 percent allotment. Fraser called this plan, "... simply inadequate. We thought this was a good start, not a goal."

The recent controversy has led to a lot of confusion about the International Park. Many think private land will be taken away and others fear the proposal is a UN conspiracy to seize control of Northwest Washington. However, most of the changes will be administrative, designed to create a more holistic management strategy for the North Cascades.

"We want to find a way for the park to cooperate together in achieving one common goal: to preserve the North Cascades," said Dale Crane.

A RAPSHEET ON THE VARIOUS LANDS INVOLVED

North Cascades National Park

Managed by: National Park Service

Activities: camping, hiking, mountaineering.

Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest

Managed by: Forest Service

Activities: hunting, grazing, logging, and exploration for minerals are all allowed. Currently there is no grazing in Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie Forest, but the Forest Service issues grazing permits in national forests in the eastern side of the Cascades.

Pasayten Wilderness

Managed by: National Park Service and Forest Service (depending on which lands the wilderness lies on.)

Activities: No new roads allowed. Some hunting is allowed in wilderness; however, no logging, mining, or motorized vehicles are allowed in the area.

Ross Lake and Lake Chelan Recreation Areas

Managed by: National Park Service

Manning Provincial Park

Managed by: B.C. Ministry of Parks

Cathedral Provincial Park

Managed by: B.C. Ministry of Parks.

While the size and scale is unprecedented the underlying spirit of cooperation essential to the proposed international North Cascades park is nothing new.

In 1932, the United States and Canada, through a non-administrative agreement, linked Waterton Lakes and Glacier National Parks, forming the world's first International Peace Park.

Former Secretary of the Interior Stewart Udall called it, "the greatest international monument to peace. It is nature unviolated and man harmonized, and both at peace. There is little else one could ask for."

Resource conservation managers also meet to work out mutual support for public safety and resource protection. However, the designation of Waterton-Glacier as an international park has been largely symbolic, said Sandra B. M. Davis, regional director for the Alberta region of the Department of Canadian Heritage. Davis was speaking at a March 1994 on the North Cascades.

Cooperation has been a tradition here in the Pacific Northwest as well.

In August 1993, the US Park Service and Canadian National and Historic Parks Branch presented a report to the International Point Roberts Board cataloging the possibilities of combining Point Roberts, Boundary Bay and the San Juan and Gulf Islands into an international park.

In 1984, the Boundary Waters, Ross Dam treaty, which was brought about by a grass-roots environmental movement on both sides of the border, created the Environmental Endowment Fund administered by the Skagit Environmental Endowment Commission (SEEC).

Section 11 of that agreement states, "it is intended that a high priority be given to the establishment of a firm connection between North Cascades Park in the United States and Manning Provincial Park in the Province of British Columbia, forming an International Park . . ."

The Washington Department of Fish and Wildlife and the British Columbia Ministry of Fisheries commissioned the SEEC to coordinate a fisheries management plan for Ross Lake.

Canada and the United States have a wildfire management agreement that includes extended loans of equipment, reciprocal "attack-first and call later" procedures and regular joint meetings on prescribed burning and smoke management.

The Lower Fraser Basin/North Cascades Fire Management Ecosystem Group coordinates training,

compiles inventories of shared resources and establishes an agreement for wildlife management.

In the Flathead area of the East Kootenays, the U.S. Fish and Wildlife Service has participated with British Columbia in a study of transborder grizzly and black bear populations. British Columbia has provided bears to rebuild American populations.

The desire and need for cooperation is spreading.

In June 1993, British Columbia set aside the 2.5 million-acre watershed of the Tatshenshini and Alsek rivers to be designated a provincial park. When combined with the adjacent parks in Alaska and Canada's Yukon Territory, the region's 21 million acres will constitute the world's largest international protected area.

While the size and scale of the proposed park may seem daunting, the idea is only a natural extension and evolution of the spirit of cooperation that has existed between the United States and Canada since the early 1990's.



Erich Raudebaugh

Artist's point, Mt. Baker in the moonlight.

"THE FUTURE IS WHAT WE MAKE IT"

By Scott Brennan

Harvey Manning was born in Seattle early in the century. He has introduced more people to the wonderful wilderness of the Cascades than any other writer. He estimates he has written "several dozen" books on the North Cascades including hiking guides and a history of the range that will be published soon. Many of his hiking guides have been published in two or three editions and have sold over a quarter million copies.

Harvey is an author, a conservationist, an editor, a hiker, a mountaineer and a self-described Redneck for Wilderness. Henry David Thoreau is his legal advisor. He is also honest, articulate and, as far as I can tell, fearless. Harvey knows the North Cascades like no one else.

"In the early 1960s I never expected to see a national park in the North Cascades," he said. "I just wasn't

going to let the sons of bitches get away with it without raising as much hell as I could."

He and his friends campaigned for North Cascades National Park in a political climate he says was no different than the anti-park, anti-conservation climate we face today, and he'll never forget the victory dinner he attended after Congress approved that "impossible park" in 1968.

I met Harvey at his outdoor office, Lake Sammamish State Park, not far from his home on Cougar Mountain near Issaquah. The sun lit Cougar Mountain and the Cascade Crest through a smoggy orange shroud.

As I waited to meet the man who introduced me to wilderness travel through his guidebooks and the first edition of the classic text, *Mountaineering: Freedom of the Hills*, which he edited, I noticed a faded brown sign at the park's gate. Reflective white letters spelled, "Park Capacity 1760 Vehicles."

When the measure of a park is its parking capacity and smog hides the mountains, I need Harvey Manning and his message and so do the mountains.

The rattle of a perforated muffler startled me as he arrived. His dirty, red Ford Bronco rolled to a stop, coughed and died. A green and white bumper sticker on the Ford's wrinkled nose said, "Rednecks for Wilderness, Ned Ludd Books, P.O. Box 5141 Tucson, AZ 85703." Thank God for this redneck and the wilderness he has fought for, North Cascades National Park.

"The day I became a conservationist was when a friend of mine and I were up above White Rock Lake, sitting on a little peak up on the crest, looking out on

wild peaks that stretched, without a break, as far as you could see," Harvey said as we sat at a weathered picnic table.

"I knew there were cities out there but I couldn't see them," he said. "About then I looked down at the mouth of Downey Creek on the Suiattle River and there was this typical late summer haze. You couldn't make out things too clearly, but you could see that the forest there had a different color. It was brownish. I was looking at a clear-cut. That was 1960. That's when I became an activist."

Harvey has devoted his life to protecting "the wilderness within" and "the wilderness without" and he has never forgotten that day he spent high above White Rock Lake and a hazy, brown clear-cut.

"The wilderness within," he said as he sat with folded arms, "is where man lives. The wilderness with-

out is where man is a visitor and does not remain. Places like the heart of the North Cascades' wilderness."

Harvey loves the wilderness without: that living, breathing, but still vulnerable being that spans the U.S. - Canada border, the wild Cascades. He speaks candidly about the Wise Use movement and the new Congress - his latest adversaries in the battle to protect the wild Cascades.

The Wise Use movement, he says, isn't a serious threat.

"These things come and they go. Before Wise Use we had the Sagebrush Rebellion," he said. "There are two kinds of people involved in the Wise Use movement. There are those with a nickel to make and those with nothing upstairs. It's partly pure stupidity and partly something being a little twisted in their brains."

Real estate companies and timber companies are using small land owners as a lever to remove government regulations from all private land and to open protected land to development and logging. Regulations cost developers and timber companies. Without regulations they will earn more and exploit more, Harvey says.

"The best solution to the Wise Use problem is laughing at its outrageous claims," he said. "They all hate getting laughed at."

Harvey has known Wise Use leader Ron Arnold since Arnold was a Sierra Club member. Harvey says Arnold is motivated by an acute inferiority complex. "Ron Arnold wanted to be David Brower. But he couldn't," Harvey said. "So he left the Sierra Club

and decided to be the anti-Brower. He has lived his whole life in reaction to David Brower."

Harvey knows parks don't succeed unless their congressperson supports them. Jack Metcalf, a Republican from Langely who represents the North Cascades, has said he "hasn't had time to decide" whether or not he'll ask to open North Cascades National Park to logging, mining and grazing. He has also said he would not support an international park, even if his constituents want it. Metcalf's attitude doesn't impress Manning.

Harvey says Jack Metcalf is dumb and, at most, a temporary obstacle to an international park in the North Cascades.

"Metcalf is a pure Republican nitwit," Harvey said. "I don't think he's bright at all. (Senator) Slade Gorton is bright, but he's the most cynical person who has ever been involved in Washington politics. We won't reach Metcalf or Gorton."

The best way to deal with this problem is to speak up at public meetings, write letters to the editor and explain the reasons for protecting the Cascades to your friends and neighbors. And when the Republicans lose in '96, tell the Democrats what they need to do, he said. But, Harvey warns, activism has consequences.



Scott Brennan

Harvey Manning, Redneck for Wilderness

"You move to an idyllic retreat in the woods and speak out in a public meeting and all of a sudden you're in real fear of having your house burnt down," he said. "So speaking out in public is not easy but you've got to make your voice known."

Harvey has learned this during decades of activism.

"I don't know whether I've suffered because of my activism or because I'm an ornery son of a bitch," he said. "I've had people tell me they're my enemy, but it's strictly a matter of principle . . . my personality is so lovable, how could anybody hate me?"

Politics be damned, Harvey knows the international park will prevail.

"I no more expect the North Cascades ecosystem to be protected in my lifetime than I expected to see the North Cascades Park," he said. "But in 1968 we had a park, the first significant park created since 1940."

For 28 years Harvey Manning listened to government officials and college professors, professed park experts. They told him that the national park movement was dead and all the parks were going to be turned over to the U.S. Forest Service for multiple use. Logging, mining, grazing - you name it. For 28 years, Harvey Manning knew that they were wrong.

"So never believe the pundits who pretend to tell you what the future's going to be," he said with fire in his eyes. "The future is going to be what we make it."

Harvey is calm, articulate and determined. He simply knows he is right. You can take it or leave it. He doesn't care, because he knows.

"I don't look forward to any particular year for the (protection) of the entire North Cascades ecosystem," he said. "But it's going to happen. It's just a question of how much will be left when we decide to do it."

Harvey stood and scuffed his ancient hiking boots against the concrete. It looked like nothing but years' accumulation of sweat and pitch held the boots together.

"If I don't live to see it," he said slowly, "at least I'll go down with an obscenity in my throat against the bastards who obstruct it."

As this glorious redneck and I bade farewell, we shook hands and walked in opposite directions across an empty gravel parking lot. He stopped and turned.

"One more thing," he said, clutching his knit cap and squinting into the setting sun. "Nothing is ever over."

No it isn't, Harvey, not as long as ornery bastards like you care so much for those sacred, wild places.



Cleaning their Plates: Livestock on the Range

By Elissa Torres

Enjoying the outdoors from the vantage of horse-back is an experience I treasure, and one I try to enjoy as often as I can. I appreciate the added awareness my horse gives me as we wander together in the North Cascades. As the land shaped the character of early settlers of the West, so it molds who I am every time I visit wilderness. I feel connected to the natural world in a way I wouldn't experience without my animal companion. I also realize that our domestic animals seriously impact the wilderness that makes the Cascade Mountains special. Ranges grazed by livestock, whether horses, sheep or cows, show considerable differences from those protected from such use.

"Cattle tend to use streambanks for water and shade," Dana Peterson, Range Conservationist for the Bureau of Land Management's (BLM) Wenatchee Resource Area Office, told me. "They will camp out in streams, and eat the shrubby, brushy plant species. Once those decrease, riparian zones lose soil and the channel broadens."

Without the shade and stability these plants provide, streams become wider, warmer and more shallow. All of this is bad news to fish and aquatic animals. Peterson said that several methods of reclamation can help damaged areas, depending on the impact. "We can exclude livestock or decrease their numbers, or change the season of use to protect the growing season of native plants."

Other non-native species that tag along with livestock cause further disruption. The brown-headed cowbird plagues native songbirds, stealing their nests and killing their hatchlings. Cattle carry the seeds of foreign plants onto rangelands, though many of these plants are poisonous to foraging animals, cattle included. Conservationists, livestock operators and the personnel of land management agencies all expressed to me their beliefs that land use regulations need up-



Peter Lewinson

When cattle forage on public lands, wildlife are apt to suffer.

dating. They differ, however, in what exactly should be changed.

Some livestock operators cooperate with conservation efforts. They recognize that continued rangeland health is vital to their livelihoods. Although they have historically fought any restricting legislation, range stewardship may become more prevalent. Some livestock operators fence off and replant waterways, rest overgrazed areas and minimize salt deposits.

"Sure, you can find some place that's been abused," Craig Vejraska, of the Okanogan Cattlemen's Association, told me. "Everyone has a rotten apple in their barrel." He also said that the Okanogan ranges are in better shape today than ever, even after a seven year drought. He credited this to the stewardship lifestyle of livestock operators using the land. Peterson told me that the BLM is studying rangelands in Okanogan County to assess impacts and the overall state of the land. That report should be complete during the upcoming grazing season of June through September.

Conservationists advocate establishment of a North Cascades International Park to protect wildlife and their habitat. They want to strengthen fragile grizzly bear and wolf populations, and to set aside the area for future generations to enjoy. But Vejraska is upset by the possibility of more habitat protection. "They

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tend to lock up an area," he said. "We don't believe grizzlies are here. We don't mind if they are; let them re-establish themselves. We oppose transplanting misfits like wolves."

Both conservationists and livestock operators blame the other side for failing to communicate. "Ranting and raving is not useful," said Lloyd Manchester, of the Canadian Earthcare Society. "We are not trying to do things in a vacuum without talking to people," he assured me. While Earthcare speaks of forthright dialogue, livestock operators feel that mandates to protect wildlife species may have been issued without co-planning.

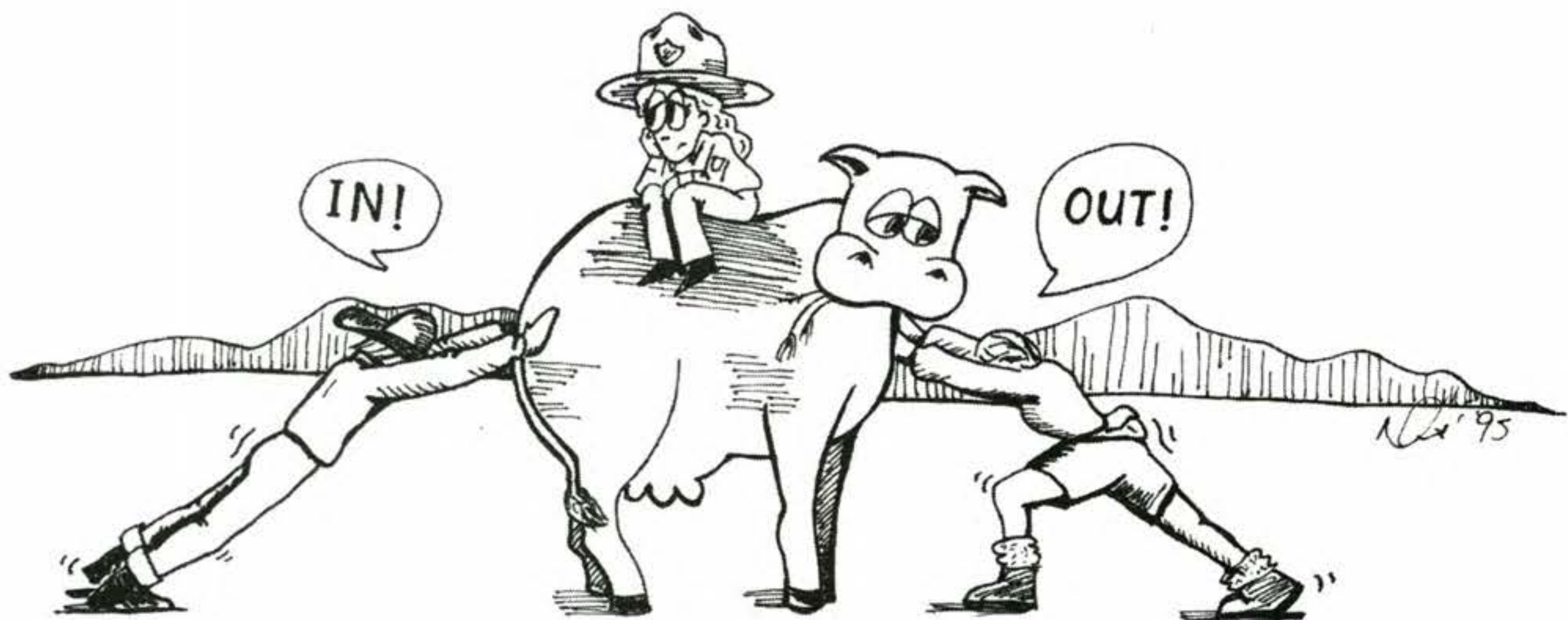
Livestock grazing is one of the oldest uses of public lands administered by the U.S. Forest Service and the BLM. "Roughly two-thirds of the Okanogan Forest's cattle grazing allotments fall within the borders of the proposed international park," Keith Roland, of the Okanogan National Forest, told me. "We discuss with permittees the impacts and utilizations, the number of animals per allotment, time spent on the range and the directions they'll go. We give them a map and tell them how long to spend where," he explained. Christina Bauman, Range Specialist for the Okanogan, is optimistic that livestock operators will continue to change high-impact grazing practices.

Livestock operators can purchase grazing rights for \$1.86 to \$1.97 per Animal Unit Month (AUM).

That translates to a month's grazing for a cow and calf. They could expect to pay \$9.22 per AUM for grazing on privately owned lands. Most cattle weigh in at 900 pounds to nearly one ton, and can eat well over 40 pounds of forage per day. When grazed on public lands, taxpayers subsidize the low grazing fees approximately three-to-one. I had no idea that I was paying to have livestock turned loose on forage shared by wildlife. In addition, taxpayers pick up the cost of restoring land damaged by livestock.

The question remains of whether updated grazing practices will be enough to preserve the integrity of natural areas and provide adequate protection for faltering wildlife. "The primary cause of the degradation in rangeland resources is poorly managed livestock (primarily cattle and sheep) grazing," said a report by the General Accounting Office in August, 1990. "The BLM has been more concerned with the immediate needs of livestock interests or budget reductions than with ensuring the long-term health of the range."

Livestock operators have spent over a century at home on the range. Not only is the majority of rangelands public land, but it is the rightful home of the native species of animals and plants, like those of the North Cascades. On my visits to the wilderness, I want to feel confident that what surrounds me has more than a fair chance to survive. 🐾



Mines are Shafting the Public

Digging Gold from Public Pockets

By Elissa Torres

Antiques enhance the home and gain value with time. They are handed down through generations, best if maintained in original form. After all, things just aren't made like they used to be.

The Mining Law of 1872 is an antique that has changed little over time. Perhaps no other law is so rich with tradition: President Ulysses S. Grant signed it into law to attract settlers to the rugged Western states and territories. Even before the Law, one of the pioneer industries around Bellingham was mining.

The taming of the West began with pickaxes and shovels, pans and donkeys. Whatcom County's earliest gold rush came with William Young's discovery near the Nooksack River in 1858. Jack Post made the most important discovery of gold in the Mt. Baker district in 1897, after which his Lone Jack vein yielded gold-bearing quartz worth up to \$10,000 per ton. Towns of settlers, bent on striking it rich, sprang up throughout the North Cascades. New mines dotted the range.

The Lone Jack claim, on the southern side of Bear Mountain, peaked around the turn of the century. After depleting the first vein, miners extracted gold from the nearby Lulu vein in the 1920s. The third and final vein in the 13-acre claim, the Whist, brought the mine back into production as recently as 1992. Approximately 65 tons of ore were trucked down the mountainside during the two months when weather allowed mining in 1993.

Today, more than a century after the passage of the Mining Law, prospectors no longer use picks, pans and shovels to extract bits of precious metal. They now use massive machinery to level mountains and grind up to 100 tons of earth for an ounce of gold. Miners use immense trucks to haul loads early prospectors couldn't imagine. Modern sites bury valleys under tons of "waste rock" and pollute land, streams and groundwater. Once stripped of its topsoil, an area can

produce only grass for many decades. Once deprived of their habitat, native wildlife may never recover.

Cyanide represents another technological breakthrough; it extracts gold from waste rock. Long after Whatcom County mines and others in the North Cascades stopped producing much in the way of hard-rock minerals, cyanide sludge ponds and other chemical deposits linger. They are poisonous to wildlife and humans. Other leftovers include abandoned equipment, unsafe shafts, eroded landscapes and even live dynamite.

On federal lands in the North Cascades, 30 or more sites had active mineral exploration, development or mining in 1993. Others are the scene of costly, active recovery attempts. A prime example, Holden Mine, sits dormant above Lake Chelan. In its day, from 1938 to 1957, Holden produced large quantities of copper and other minerals, and an integrated company town.

But the Holden legacy includes wind erosion on hillsides and immense tailing piles, portal drainage, tailing seepage and water contamination. Fish populations in the nearby creeks all suffered chronic exposure to runoff. Aquatic life is greatly diminished. Reclamation attempts include layering three to four



A rock quarry (this one on private land) in the foothills of the Cascades.

Andy Eckart

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inches of crushed rock atop imported topsoil to encourage revegetation. The Department of Ecology (DOE) declared it a moderately hazardous site, but who will pay for the restoration is still being decided.

Another example, the Minnie Mine site, was once a modern, lucrative gold mine. After wildlife and cows grazing on public land died from exposure to cyanide sludge, the U.S. Forest Service helped the mine operator with neutralizing techniques. When the mine was abandoned in 1990, the Forest Service and DOE took over all reclamation attempts. The cost of cleanup has exceeded \$136,000.

The price of mining is paid in various ways. The Mining Law allows exploration for minerals on public land, except for national parks and declared wilderness. Prospectors may extract hard-rock minerals royalty free. Mining companies have the option of "patenting" (or buying) the land for only \$2.50 to \$5.00 per acre. Taxpayers get no compensation. Instead, the cost keeps rising when sites are degraded.

Forty-eight of the Environmental Protection Agency's (EPA) Superfund sites are abandoned mines. "Superfund sites are locations where the contaminants left in the ground are in a category above hazardous waste," explained Melanie Luh, Director of External Affairs at the Seattle EPA office. Once the federal government designates an area as a Superfund site, they name the potentially responsible parties in hopes of making them help pay for the cleanup.

"Old mining had poor practices," said Luh. "The practices weren't illegal, but Americans weren't committed to restoring areas. At older sites, there is no hope for the immediate environment. Newer sites must use processes to help recover areas as they go."

Mining organizations like the Mining Law and land regulations just the way they are. They feel threatened by the prospect of an international park. Under the Law, mining takes precedence over all other uses of public lands. Most miners dismiss the possibility of damage to the land and the life it supports. They don't believe mining should be more closely regulated or banned from wilderness.

As for the dead wildlife and cattle resulting from poisonous mine tailing runoff and holding ponds,



Andy Eckart

Only grass and alder will grow here for decades where the ground has been scraped bare.

some miners believe it to be the work of eco-terrorists. "I am firmly convinced," wrote miner Cameron Lorz in a letter to the DOE, "that the cyanide, the broken fence and the dead cows (at Minnie Mine) are a deliberate act of sabotage by the opponents (of mining)."

Foreign mining companies also like the U.S. Mining Law. It allows them to buy U.S. minerals and land for dimes to the dollar, then either develop it or sell it at market value for incredible profit once they finish mining. We still pay for the cleanup of foreign owned sites.

Canadian environmental groups in the North Cascades also see mining as a threat, and one that will soon have no option but to change. "While mining is the most stubborn and obstinate of all resource extraction industries," said Lloyd Manchester of the Canadian Earthcare Society, "many (companies) are coming around. In the past, they trashed the environment with no regard. Now we are working to reclaim respect for it."

Rather than carry an old, harmful antique forward into a new age, we have the chance to start a new tradition. Safeguarding the heart of the greater North Cascades in one international park would prevent public land from being sold for a fraction of its true value. We could protect the habitat of declining wildlife and enjoy unprecedented international cooperation in the effort to save the most precious resource of all - wilderness. 🐾

Eco-nomics

and Change

Can The North Cascades Region Grow And Still Be A Place You Want To Live?

By Sean Cosgrove

When I was a little boy one of my favorite games was "cowboys." When Halloween came along I dressed as a "lumberjack." The image of the tough guys of the Old West was well rooted in my mind and in the culture of my small home town. Our self-image, as residents of the American West, is often tied to our perception of the land and the role it plays in our lives.

The image of the "rugged individualist" of the western U.S. is personified throughout our culture in popular entertainment, art, politics and even to the roots of our economic system. The image of western culture is rooted in the west's small towns and the logging, mining and grazing industries of rural areas. John Wayne and Paul Bunyan are alive and well in our national mindset.

Times are changing, however. The reality of the American West conflicts with its romantic images. According to Gundars Rudzitis, a professor of natural resource policy and regional development at the University of Idaho, the rural west is more and more a minority. The population of the western U.S. is largely urban; 84 percent live in metropolitan areas. The majority of Americans do not make their living working in the traditional extractive industries. In the Pacific Northwest airplanes and computer software are replacing raw log and mineral ore exports as sources of income. The U.S. population is constantly growing and more people are seeking wilderness areas as a place to escape daily hassles rather than provide their daily bread.

The New West is a reality and its "non-rugged" residents are filling up the wide open spaces. Dr. Rudzitis' research says more Americans are moving to rural areas, but not just for economic reasons. They are seeking a better quality of life than they could find in crowded, polluted cities. This inward migration in the last decade has increased the population

growth rate of counties with designated wilderness areas by 24 percent - six times faster than the national average. Americans are coming back to their wilderness roots and deciding they want their public lands managed for more than just board feet. The reality of the American West is that John Wayne and Paul Bunyan are dead and buried. The changing west raises many questions about the future of our economy and our environment.

The change is good for some. Roberta Matthews is a real estate agent in Winthrop, an eastern Washington town in Okanogan County, home of the Pasayten Wilderness. Winthrop and that part of the Okanogan have become favorites of the recreational yuppie crowd in the last few years. Roberta's agency sells real estate all over the Okanogan area and she



Silver mining opened Okanagon County to settlement.

Darren Niemaber

has seen the migration influx first hand. "We've had such a sharp increase in sales the last five years," Roberta said, "we're working seven days a week. You've gotta get it while you can."

Most people moving into the Okanogan are retired or buying vacation homes but the real estate agencies are seeing profits from other sources as well. "We get a lot of professional types who can live here and do all their business on the coast with faxes and modems," Roberta explains. Apparently, the locals may not approve. "The push from areas like Seattle has some locals moving out to even more rural areas," she explained.

The migration may be good for the real estate agencies, but what about the Old West rural extractive industries? During the heralded flap over protection of ancient forest habitat for the northern spotted owl, the argument was often reduced to "owls vs. jobs." Even the oversimplification of a complicated controversy still raises concerns about the impact environmental protection has on extractive resource industries. The questions exist and deserve answers. If Cascades International Park becomes a reality and more restrictions are placed on resource extraction, won't the economies of rural communities take a turn for the worse?

That is what Susan Klinkert wants to know. Susan is a life long resident of the community of Twisp, a town in the foothills of the North Cascades just down the road from Winthrop. She owns two mining claims located in the Pasayten Wilderness and is a member of a local "wise use" group. "Wise use" groups are advocates of resource extraction over all other concerns, especially environmental protection. When I visited Susan I found a note on the door, "Please come in - will be with you shortly." I remembered the essence of what it means to live in a small town. The trusting, kind woman reminded me much of my own grandmother.

Susan is worried about plans for an international park because she says it will put restrictions on the local logging and mining industry. However, when I asked her about the specifics on the changing local economy, she talks more about city folks bringing "their lifestyle with them."

Her concern is not that the economy will crash but the growth might be too much, too quick. "Everyone has a right to 'get out of the city,' but if you come into someone else's area because of the quiet, easygoing lifestyle and bring all of the modern conveniences with you, trying to raise everyone up to your standards, then I feel like you're infringing upon my rights," Susan said.



Darren Nienaber

Susan Klinkert worries about the changing economy.

Though she recognizes increasing population brings increasing regulations and conflicts, Susan still says that government as a whole is too large and out of control. "It's kind of sad when I can't take my little grandson down to the river, put a worm on a bent pin and teach him to fish because of expensive licenses and regulations," she said.

The vice-president of Susan's "wise-use" group, Ward Hartzell, feels much the same way, but he is more vocal in his opposition of "big government." In a 45-minute telephone seminar Ward told me everything wrong with the federal government's management of public land - even stating his belief that the federal government "does not legally own any land and has no right to manage or control any land." He did relent land occupied by post offices to federal control. He believes that all land management decisions can and should be made on the county level partly because federal administrators are so removed they cannot understand "western values."

Ward is against the designation of any new wilderness or an international park. "An international park would be very harmful to traditional economic uses and increase the federal bureaucracy," Ward said. He assumes that any international park proposal would exclude all logging, mining and grazing on private and public land.

Ward speaks loudly for the local logger and grazer but he has never been part of the "traditional economic uses" of Okanogan County. Ward retired from



Darren Nienaber

The scenic nature of this river valley is likely to change with rapid population and economic growth.

his landscape construction business in the Mountlake Terrace area of Seattle over 15 years ago and moved to Twisp. Ward's good friend from the landscape business did the same.

The great North Cascades are a resource. How we use the resource determines our immediate future but more directly the future of our environment. The way we throw around the term "resource" implies that the Old West extractive use is the only use of economic value. Perhaps the value of natural resources lies in the protection of the natural landscape.

Rural economies based in mining or logging are often subject to the cycle of "boom and bust." A dependence on global market price fluctuations for minerals or wood products can play real havoc with a rural community's economy. University of Montana economist Thomas Power's study of the North Cascades changing economy says a Cascades International Park could be just the ticket for continued stable economic growth. Environmental protection and a scenic landscape help draw in new residents who bring money and support local businesses. The key, says

Power, is to attract new business while reducing dependence on unstable extractive industries that create pollution or scar the landscape.

Power's research shows the change is under way. Taking his figures of each county's real income from the U.S. Department of Commerce, Power says in the North Cascades counties of Whatcom, Skagit, Snohomish, Okanogan and Chelan, lumber and mining income between 1979 and 1991 dropped by 40 percent. A decline that sharp would destroy an economy dependent on those resource industries, but not in the North Cascades. Because of growth in other areas of the economy, North Cascades residents' income actually increased 50 percent in the same time period.

According to Power's study, two large parts of the economic growth burst was from retirees and local services. Over the same time period local services grew by 150 percent while extractive income declined. During the 1980s retirees provided as much as 11 times more income than lumber and mining did. Economic collapse seems a long way off.

Power specializes in the economies of the Old West. He says that if resource extractive economies haven't made the switch yet, they are now or will be soon. Power says the change he sees in the North Cascades region is happening in other Old West areas like Southern Utah, the Northern Rockies, and Idaho. "These changes took place in the rest of the country quite some time ago. Utah is a perfect example. They really haven't had an resource extractive economy for fifty years," says Power. The economy grew after people moved there for non-economic reasons, he continued.

Having a healthy, beautiful environment can be the key to drawing new businesses to the North Cascades. Dr. Gundars Rudzitis, Roberta Matthews, Susan Klinkert and Ward Hartzell might all agree on this point. One who certainly does agree is Ron Nielsen. Ron, Executive Director for the Okanogan County Council for Economic Development, is one whose job it is to bring new employers to the Okanogan. "More people are definitely fleeing to rural areas," and they're not all retirees, Ron said. "The average age (of newcomers) is around 45-55 years old. They are more computer literate and work on the phone and fax," he continued. "Everything being equal, we expect the economy to continue to grow," Ron said. Though he sees the county's economy as having a pretty bright future, Ron also stopped to comment on the clash of "cultural values" between newcomers and long-time residents.

The balance could change dramatically. Other outside groups are eyeing the hills of the Okanogan and they are not all yuppies. The Battle Mountain Mining Corporation, based in Houston, has applied to start a new open pit mine near the town of Chesaw. The "Crown Jewel" project would employ about 120 to 160 people for ten years and remove good-sized portions of Buckhorn Mountain. Ron Nielsen said at least three other mining corporations are waiting in the wings to see if Battle Mountain's deal is approved.

The Okanogan could find itself back on the extract and export roller coaster. Tom Power doesn't think it would be such a good idea, "One mine would slow down the current steady growth. If more than one mine is set up and a mining economy develops it will kill all new economic growth," he said. The economy would take a huge shock af-

ter the mine runs out. Power says many mining communities can bring in good wages but still be far from prosperous because other businesses are not attracted to those areas. He cites Kellogg, Idaho and Anaconda, Montana as examples. Anaconda, once the most productive mining towns in the U.S., now wants professional golfer Jack Nicklaus to build a championship golf course on its arsenic-laden slag heaps and mountains of toxic tailings.

The old cliché "only change is constant" clearly applies here.

We control the direction of our economy and our quality of life. We control their effects on the remnants of our natural heritage. The wild and wondrous North Cascades are not getting any larger but we constantly ask them to give more and more. Protection of our western landscape ensures our tie to our history and culture. Cascades International Park could be a gift we give ourselves. 🐾



Mike Weaver

Logging provides less to the economy while other industries grow.

Lee Mann - Creating Beauty With Patience and Purpose

By Mike Wewer

On the outskirts of Sedro Woolley, in the shadows of the North Cascades, I came to a gallery filled with powerful, impressive prints of the Northwest and its mountains.

Here I met Lee Mann, a distinguished Northwest photographer, holding court graciously at his gallery tucked away in the woods.

"Be sure to come on a rainy day," Mann had said on the phone. It was a drizzly Sunday morning, so he was happy to accommodate me. I appreciate that time is important. It isn't simple being a photographer. Time, patience and a keen sense of detail are essential. Mann has not only mastered landscape and wildlife photography, but the printing aspects as well.

I was surprised to hear he studied at Western Washington University (WWU), graduating as a major in education in 1960. While there, he was president of the University's Alpine Club. "When most of the students were inside studying, I was taking pictures of flowers and climbing around in the Cascades," Mann said.

In addition, he was active in the campaign to establish North Cascades National Park.

"Through petitions and letters, I pursued the proposal of the North Cascades National Park," Mann said. "I didn't want my favorite backyard taken from me."

"John Muir once said, 'Going to the mountains is going home.' It truly is. It has that effect. I feel truly alive in the mountains. It's a great high."

In 1960, he landed a student teaching position at his present home, Sedro Woolley. The area was for him. Thumbing through an old album of black and whites, Mann said, "There's a shot of Jerry Flora (a popular WWU biology professor) in the 1950's. We were on top of Mount Baker."

Recalling the summer of 1964, when he taught in Anchorage, Alaska, Mann spoke of climbing Mount McKinley: "We experienced three falls into three different crevasses. We would later experience an avalanche on the same ascent. The experience changed my life. I saw what could happen and realized I was mortal. This event lead me to

my pursuit of photography."

Mann returned to Sedro Woolley to continue teaching at Cascade Middle School. One of the many subjects Mann focused on was environmental studies.


Although he loves teaching, photography soon became his full-time career. Through his photography, however, Mann continues to teach. His highly praised prints of majestic peaks and valleys enable everyone to experience the North Cascades - he reveals the essence of nature.

"You are going to fully feel the aesthetics of nature a few times in your life," said Mann. "Avid mountaineers only have a handful of perfect days."

"It is satisfying when the light is right. It's an experience with or without your camera - a prime moment, a feeling of rapport with the earth."

The days of capturing these moments are special to him, and he enjoys sharing these moments with others.

"I can have a positive outlook through my pursuit of beauty. Moving people's souls with photography is my way of being positive in a negative situation."

For well over a year, Mann donated his energy to the North Cascades Park Interpretive Center, just outside of Newhalem. In 1993, he created a gallery of prints for the public to see nature through his eyes. Now, Mann continues to move souls through his work. He captures nature with the patience of a true craftsman. 

"Moving people's souls with my photography is my way of being positive..."



Photographer Lee Mann and an old friend.

Mike Wewer





Spider web among flowers.



Andy Eckart

Leaves on heather.

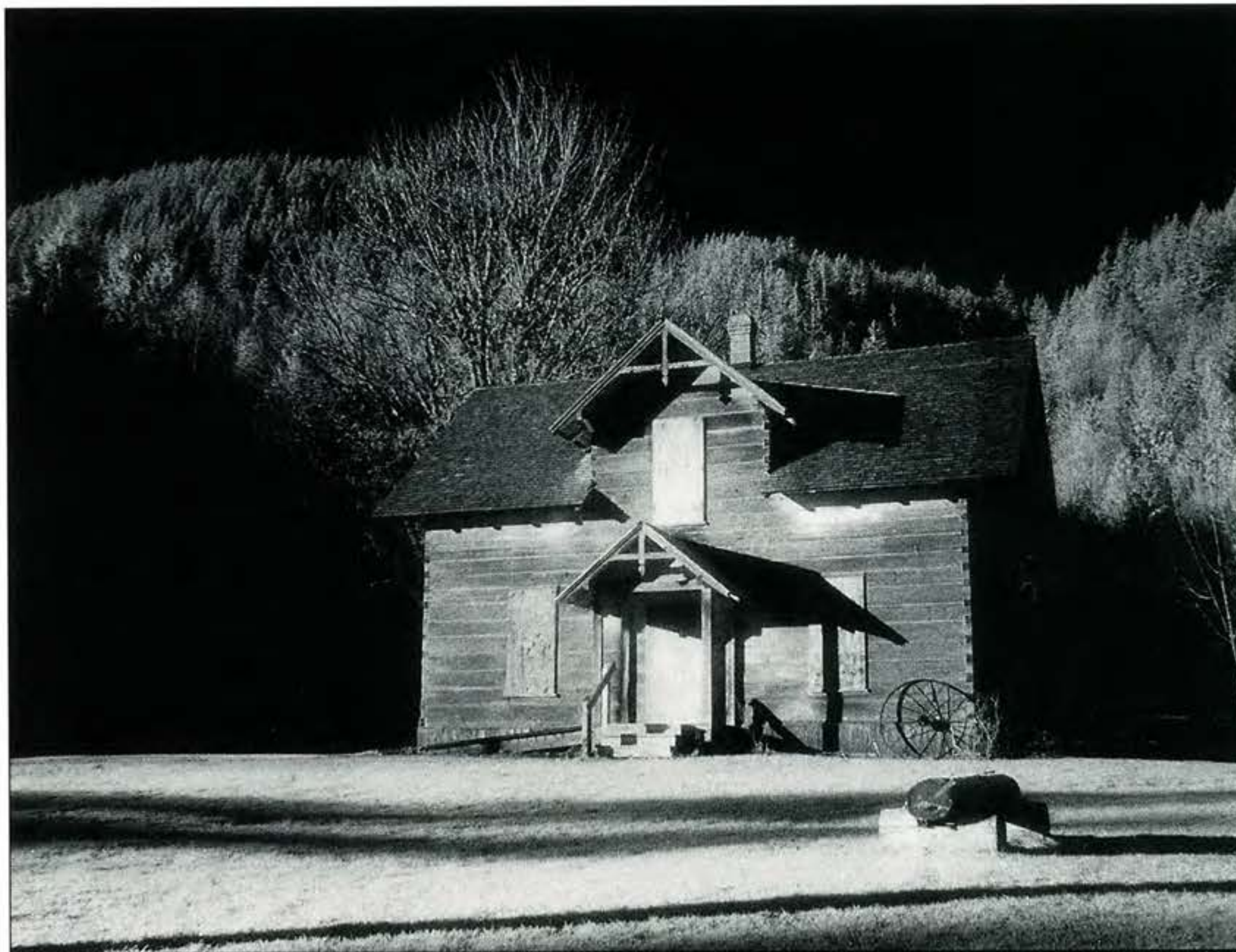


Mike Wewer

Old growth Western hemlock.



Andy Eckart



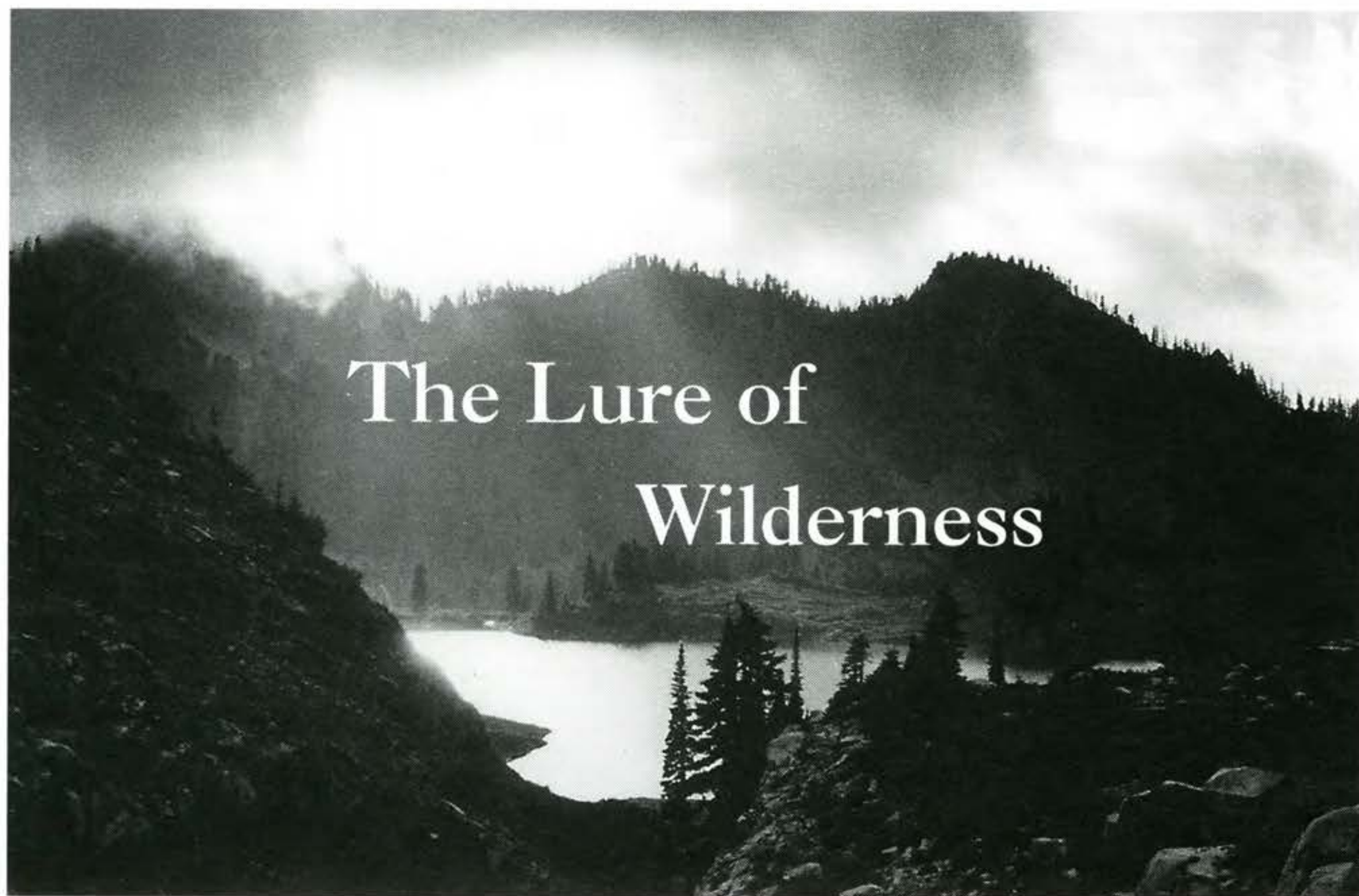
This is one of the first houses built in the foothills of the North Cascades.

Peter Lewinsohn



Clearcuts scar the land.

Peter Lewinsohn



Peter Lewinsohn

The Lure of Wilderness

By Perry Falcone

Though I feel young at 26, after I led a group of teenagers last summer on a five day hike along the Pacific Crest Trail, I felt older and wiser.

The forty-mile trek through Washington's Glacier Peak Wilderness Area left us in an eternally good mood. While feasting on huckleberries and salmonberries we caught glimpses of fantastic Glacier Peak. The alpine meadows surrounding us were still covered in millions of wildflowers. Like most people who have never visited the North Cascades, these teenagers from all over the country marveled at the scenery while slowly making a connection between themselves and this pristine environment.

On the first day we felt the influence of civilization fall away.

Everything we needed, we carried on our backs. Our thoughts were only of our basic needs: food, warmth and sleep. By the second day, however, we advanced to ponder our beautiful surroundings. After setting up camp near Fire Creek, a discussion spontaneously began among the group.

"What a beautiful area! How has this place been so well preserved?" one hiker asked. There was no cable television, radio or city lights to distract us. So we watched the stars of Orion rise from the horizon and we talked a long while. We did not miss our old life and for five days we faced nature and each other.

The Pacific Crest Trail runs along the backbone of the Cascades. It passes through many types of landscape, some protected

and some not. Had we continued beyond the wilderness, we would have crossed highways, urban development and logging clearcuts. Even Glacier Peak Wilderness, as we learned, was once threatened by large scale mining. Since 1984, luckily, the area has been closed to new mining claims. However, the Kennecott Copper Corporation still has a patented claim at the base of Glacier Peak and can work it at any time. The company has taken samples and surveyed the land, but through the efforts of many people Glacier Peak remains unscarred.

Wilderness in the North Cascades has been set aside, preserved and protected. These lands give us great opportunities for recreation and education. I have traveled to wilderness areas like Mount Baker,

Henry M. Jackson and Pasayten, where I enjoy skiing, snowshoeing, fishing and hiking. These activities are more than just exercise to me. They help me grow and bring meaning to my life.

Recreation in the Cascades has become a large business. My employer, Wilderness Ventures, sends eight groups through the Cascades each summer. For 23 years Ventures has expanded young minds while providing hiking, mountaineering, sea kayaking and canoeing trips around the country. During these trips each youth experiences communal living and environmental education. Ventures buys much of its food and gear locally and hires guides from Bellingham-based American Alpine Institute. The Institute itself offers courses and guided expeditions in mountaineering, climbing and skiing throughout the world. The majority of their programs are in the Cascades. Climbers come here because the Cascades constitute "an alpine climbing area that in extent and variety is unmatched in the United States."

Outside Magazine considers the Institute, "The best all around climbing school and guide service in North America." Business is growing at ten to fifteen percent per year. Dunham Gooding, Director, has guided all over the world since 1975. He is also involved with wilderness management task forces, locally and abroad.

While the American Alpine Institute and Wilderness Ventures serve clientele around the country, the North Cascades Institute (NCI) educates local people. It is a non-profit educational organization based in Sedro Woolley that educates all ages through numerous



Outdoor recreation provides fun and exercise.

programs. For adults there are 78 seminars that range from biology to outdoor photography. NCI mixes education and recreation for the more than 75 children's classes involving over 1,500 students. Children can study the natural history of their hometown area and take a three day hike in the North Cascades.

As a consequence of the relicensing of dams on the Skagit River, NCI has been awarded management of Seattle City Light's Diablo Lake Resort in Ross Lake National Recreation Area. This award was made in order to offset adverse effects of the dam projects. The nine million dollar award from Seattle City Light will rebuild seven buildings and expand curriculum. With this year-round environmental learning center, NCI will edu-

cate more people and hire more teachers. Saul Weisberg, Co-founder and Executive Director of NCI, hopes work will be completed by the summer of 1997. Before establishing NCI in 1986, Weisberg received a masters degree in biology at Western Washington University and worked as a climbing ranger, naturalist and environmental educator.

I learned the importance of groups like the North Cascades Institute during my hike last summer. Two days after our discussion at Fire Creek, we begin our walk up Red Pass. Overhead we could see a haze that is not uncommon in the morning, before the sun has time to warm the air. One young woman who is asthmatic, complains she is having trouble

breathing. I hike along with her in order to encourage her along. She blacks out twice as we approached the pass.

As a leader, I have never faced this situation. I do not know why this pass would have a different effect on her than the first pass. We reach the pass after slowing the pace of the hike. As we take a break for lunch we notice we are now in the thick of the haze and its source becomes obvious. Ashes are blowing through the air!

Newspaper headlines of forest fires pop into my head. The fires from Leavenworth blew ash clear across the Cascades. Lunch is short and everyone breathes easier as we descend the other side of the pass. Other hikers down in the valley tell us of the fires' cause. Most were started by lightning but

Peter Lewinson

one was human-caused. Fire is a natural part of the North Cascades and I learn to respect it.

North Cascades National Park complex is a popular visitor destination. Ross Lake National Recreation Area, accessible by car, attracted 348,977 people last year. Lake Chelan National Recreation, attracted 38,543. North Cascades National Park, allowing only travel on foot, had 19,323. Of these hikers, 79 percent were from Washington. Fifteen groups, including the Sierra Club and Outward Bound, hiked in the backcountry of the national park. Cedar Drake, a backcountry ranger for the Alpine Lakes Wilderness Area, explains how, "Many people return every year to the wilderness area. It is like a tradition for them."

With the proposal of the North Cascades International Park, recreation and education possibilities should increase. According to the Cascades International Alliance, "Recreation activities will continue within both the Park and Special Management Areas."

Experts on both sides of the border unanimously agree that in British Columbia there is plenty of room for expansion of trail systems, giving the public more access to the wilderness. British Columbia's second largest industry is tourism and recreation, and parks are key to the industry.

In Whatcom County, tourism brought in \$151 million in 1994. Information on local recreation is one of the top three requests the Whatcom County Visitor Bureau receives every year.

For my fellow hikers and myself in the Glacier Peak Wilderness, we only had to open our eyes or take a deep breath to understand why the North Cascades deserve protection. Spending time in the backcountry areas of the North

Cascades is therapeutic for body, mind and soul.

The only true way to experience nature is to hike through it. Tread lightly, though, for nearly every wilderness has threatened or endangered species within it. Traveling through the woods on feet rather than tires is better for the woods, and your body will thank you for it.

As towns and cities in the Northwest become densely populated, the surrounding parks and wilderness give people a place to

release the stress of modern life. It is not only a place to play but also a place of discovery and education. Recreation and learning in the North Cascades breed respect for nature.

I remember one youth exclaiming, "What incredible country! Will all of this land be saved?" Once again, we had stopped to munch on huckleberries. If the debate for wilderness protection were held on the trails of the North Cascades, I have little doubt of most people's conclusion. 🐾



Peter Lewinsolm

Ice climbing in the North Cascades

NORTH OF THE BORDER:

Canadian Environmentalists in the Chilliwack Valley

By Derek Martin

Through rattling canopy windows, following Joe Foy's pointing finger, I first see Chilliwack Lake. I expected the lake, but the dimensions are all wrong; the towering, steep-walled mountains and long, wide expanse of dark gray water looks more like a fjord than a lake. It suddenly makes sense that the Sto:lo might have used cedar canoes to get around in this vast landscape.

Hidden by the slowly-curving, far shore of the lake, which, amazingly, is still old-growth fir because it's too steep for roads, is a cedar grove at the end of the lake - our destination. Joe Foy of the Western Canada Wilderness Committee (WCWC) hopes that the old-growth cedar forest was used to make canoes and that we will find a native-logged stump to prove it. Also hoping is Larry Commodore of the Soowahlie village of the Sto:lo Nation, who is riding in the front with forestry maps in one hand and a copy of an 19th century map of old Soowahlie village sites in the other. Next to him is Simon Waters of Forest Watch Canada whose truck we all have the pleasure of riding in. If we can find such a stump, what anthropologists call "culturally modified" trees, it will give one more reason to protect the area as part of a proposed Cascades International Park. Joe's WCWC is a member of the Cascades International Alliance, an alliance of environmental groups whose mission is to protect the Cascades ecosystem.

Joe smiles as he leans against a wheel-well, his head resting against a nylon pack, conserving energy for our hike. Every few minutes he opens his eyes and feeds me a little information. He looks up: "for every canoe that's been made in the last 500 years there's a stump which can be found, mapped, and, using deadwood chronology, dated," he says, his voice punctuated in odd places by the rough dirt road and the stiff springs of the truck (as are my scribbled notes).

"The problem is we've eliminated so many of our low-level, old-growth forests that we've nearly wiped out five centuries of history." His voice raises, "We haven't even thought about it! We're just merrily chewing them up!"

Joe has just returned from Clayoquot Sound on Vancouver Island where he found 30 such sites, a few as stumps for canoe trees, but many as still living trees that show signs of bark harvesting for bore holes (holes made in the tree to see if the grain was

right or if the center was too rotten for canoes). In other places trees are still alive that have had longhouse planks split off them - a testimony to a form of logging less destructive than ours. "The Ursus valley is classified as a pristine, un-logged valley," says Joe, "but we have seen that it has been logged from one end to the other."

It has been estimated that over 70,000 native people lived on the west coast of Vancouver Island. They used cedar bark for clothing, baskets and rope. They used planks for bent-wood boxes and longhouses. They used whole trees for totem poles and canoes.

"It makes you think differently. It made me think: How can you log and still have spotted owls? Because they did. How would you log and hold onto salmon? Because they did, too," Larry said.

Finding these trees has helped to protect Meares



Derek Martin

An ancient cedar shelters a mountain stream.

Island, a part of Clayoquot Sound that the Nuu-chah-nulth claims as their territory. Joe has the chief of the Sto:lo's encouragement to look for similar trees here in the Chilliwack Valley, and Larry Commodore's assistance.

Joe first met Larry when, as Joe says, "This guy walks into my office in Vancouver and demands to know who I think I am, talking about what happens to his land." But they soon became friends. As Larry said this morning, "We want a lot of the same things. I too would like to see the park, we need connected wilderness all over North America . . . I'm reaching out to those people who respect the land, and who want to respect and protect it."

Barging into Joe's office seems uncharacteristic for Larry. He has a humble way; he's quick to smile and talks quietly - listening to my interview with him I had to turn up the volume all the way. When you go into his home it isn't long before you have a cup of coffee in your hand. Interviewing him I found that he asked me as many questions as I asked him.

Traditionally the Soowahlie lived up the Chilliwack Valley, and on Chilliwack Lake. Now their lowest village site has become their reservation, because many moved there to be near the traders. But then, as Larry told me, "Disease happened - smallpox and all that - killed off a lot of people; then generations of residential schools where people were brainwashed, abused. Their memory of the Chilliwack Valley isn't really alive."

Larry is a native environmentalist who doesn't place much faith in tribal politics. "These people need rabble-rousers. Like my grandfather used to say, (they have been) brainwashed by white government and white schools. Even (while in the Sto:lo government) I have made decisions that screw up the animals. But meeting up with Joe, Simon and others I am getting back into environmental consciousness. And I see what kind of space I have to go to get my fellow leaders in tune with environmental values."

Larry hasn't only been "rabble-rousing" the chiefs, he has also been working on other members of his community with his writing. The recent monthly Sto:lo newsletter has two of his articles, one on unity between the different Sto:lo communities, the other on the sustainability of local forests. Social and environmental issues have often worked together for him. He proudly pointed out a Mohawk flag displayed on one of the walls in his home that an elder had given him at Oka, the site of a recent Mohawk uprising.

And for the last six years he's been talking to



Erosion dug a four foot deep crevice below a clearcut.

Derek Martin

Syowen (spirit) dancers who use the valley for their spiritual practices. The dance was preserved by secrecy until laws banning it were struck from the Indian Act in 1951. Larry has tried to get the Syowen to map their sites, so they can be protected but they are still reluctant. Part of it is that, as Larry says, "They figure people will ridicule their traditions," but it is also keeping their culture their own. Many people romanticize First Nation's spiritual connection with the land, and they fear cultural appropriation.

But silence isn't an effective means of protection anymore. The nearby city of Chilliwack has a population of 60,000. It is expected to grow to 100,000 in ten years. Out of 200 Syowen cultural sites Gordon Mohs, the Sto:lo tribal anthropologist, said, "Fifty have been destroyed, 50 damaged or disturbed. Another 25 face ongoing disturbance or potential destruction from development." Most of the remaining sites are in the Chilliwack Valley. The Heritage Conservation Act provides penalties from \$2,000 to \$1 million for disturbance of registered archeological sites, and sites

of profound historical or spiritual significance, but to date only a half-dozen spiritual sites are protected province-wide. And sites like "Two Doctors Rock" on Cultus Lake have houses built upon them.

Joe makes an excellent tour-guide. Bumping over the bridge of Depot Creek he tells me of hiking its arm of the old Whatcom Trail with Larry, an arm that was built up it to get to a gold rush in the interior. "It was only used for one year because all the horses died." It had the documented tallest stand of Douglas fir in the province, until the whole valley was stripped to the American border in the '80s. The part Larry and Joe hiked was on the American side, through old-growth forest. All traces of the Canadian forest are gone.

Joe pulls himself up and says: "We have a wilderness massacre zone (in B.C.) that extends the whole length of the border, all the way to Montana. We need to be able to link existing parks and provide corridors for wildlife." As Vancouver's suburbs spread east to the mountains, the Chilliwack watershed is the only remaining low elevation area that is able to provide a corridor for wildlife to areas of British Columbia (B.C.) north of Vancouver.

The road ends abruptly with a row of boulders and a deep trench meant to keep four-wheel drives out. As we make our way across a sandy beach toward the old-growth forest I talk with Simon Waters about Forest Watch. The organization was created to keep an eye on logging infractions committed by forestry companies because the government doesn't check up on them. Simon puts a lot of kilometers on his old Nissan four-by-four looking at clearcuts for problem areas. We stopped twice at large debris torrents on the way up. He captured them on two cameras and a video camera.

At first the trees are twiggy river hardwoods, but as we round a corner the first cedar has a trunk eight feet in diameter. The underbrush is almost non-existent except for the thorny stalks of devils club. We cut off the path to look for stumps, our feet sinking into deep moss.



Derek Martin

British Columbia has been called "Brazil of the North" because of clearcutting.

"Funding is a problem," Simon said with his earnest English accent, "for we like to find logging infractions and see them through to the courts. Court fees are expensive. So I also work with other groups like this, sharing costs." He is quiet for a moment. The whole forest seems quiet and the sound of our footsteps disappears in the moss.

Simon had a lot to say about the B.C. environment. He was in Greenpeace, orchestrating illicit actions in the 80's, but after 60 or so such actions he quit because of stress. "It should have been exciting, but if a first action failed, so could the whole movement."

I asked him about the B.C. government's adoption of 12 percent protected areas. He chuckled and said: "twelve percent is perfect. We'll give the forest companies rock and ice and the mining companies the water!" The joke here is that the government often favors the logging companies, protecting alpine, bog and areas too steep to log. The 12 percent that the government chose to protect on Vancouver Island almost duplicated the areas MacMillan Bloedel suggested, and almost completely disregarded the ecologically important areas suggested by the WCWC.

We walk on between mammoth trunks of cedar, Douglas fir, hemlock, even Sitka spruce. Because it is a low-level forest on the wet side of the mountains, an unusually diverse grouping of trees co-exists, and so do fish and animal life. The watershed is home to kokanee salmon, (a land-locked salmon) three kinds of trout, two kinds of steelhead, and spawning ground

for coho, pink, chum and chinook salmon. The area is also home to the endangered Pacific Giant Salamander and is one of the largest remaining spotted owl nesting areas.

I asked Joe about the owls and he replied, "Having such a large number of spotted owls indicates that even though the old-growth of the Chilliwack Valley is highly fragmented, it still has viable old-growth ecosystems."

Nobody knows the number of species in the park, or has population figures to know the number of endangered species. Joe Foy stated publicly that we should have a "moratorium on logging," for "without it, like the spotted owl strategy, it keeps dragging on and on." Jack Carradice, of the Fraser Coalition of Sustainable Forests (a logging interest group similar to wise use) thinks a moratorium is "not a practical situation at all."

We give up looking for stumps after a while and

Larry understands the problem with bad press coverage. Recently the Sto:lo been in the news for fishing salmon while there was a provincial ban. But no one had consulted with the band about this closure, or even mentioned the decision to them, a fact which led the B.C. government to issue a formal apology. But this apology was hardly reported, the headlines had already gone on to other topics. The damage to their reputation was done.

Joe has talked with the chief of the Sto:lo about the international park proposal. At first Joe said that he was dismayed, and had said: "We have been dealing with the Canadian and British Columbian governments for over a hundred years to try to reclaim out homeland. Now we have to deal with another government?" But the chief also sees hope for cooperative management, because they claim the entire Chilliwack watershed as their traditional territory, and part of it lies in the United States. Co-management

could allow them some rights and control over these lands.

Joint management is a decision that can help the Sto:lo enter the twenty-first century with an active role in managing their home territory, re-enfranchised. It could provide a blueprint for co-managing other contentious land-claim areas for tribes around the Cascades such as the Lummi and the Skagit. In fact, it could be used all over North America.

As I walk I talk for a while to each member of our group, and I watch them do the same. This camaraderie is co-management in action, for each person has different ideas that are allowed to pass into the air and picked up and toyed with by others

until they drift into piles with old leaves and rotting wood on the forest floor. Our voices almost seem a part of the forest, mixed as they are with the murmurings of running water and whispering distant breezes. I get an odd feeling suddenly that they belong to these old trees, discussing their own future.

Joe said one thing that hit home: "We don't have to look back to Europe for a holy land, we have one here." But it is Larry's words that ring in my ears now, as I crouch and drink from a jubilant, glacial creek: "It's not like I have some plan to reclaim the land or anything. It's really a matter of the land reclaiming me." 🐾



Joe, Simon and Larry assess the Canadian side of the Cascades.

Derek Martin

decide to take advantage of the warm temperatures and walk up to an exceptionally large cedar Joe knows of several miles up valley. We cross the river on a huge tree that has fallen across it, a sturdy, but slippery, bridge.

We talk about native and white co-management as we walk. A land claim in progress makes the park more difficult to create, but it has its rewards as well.

Joe mentions how parks can take away native rights. He gave an example of a First-Nation's group in B.C. that wants to protect land, but not as a park. They told Joe: "Some of our guys were kicked out of a park for mushroom picking. We hate parks!"

DALE CRANE:

One of the North Cascades' Biggest Proponents

By Porter Ingram

In the spring of last year, Dale Crane, 63, came to Western to speak on his experiences in the environmental field. I was immediately struck by his humility and his physical appearance. For someone who has accomplished so much, Dale was surprisingly down to earth, perhaps feeling a little awkward speaking in front of a large audience. A large boned man standing over six-feet tall, he reminded me of a grizzly bear similar to the ones that he is working to save.

As the National Parks and Conservation Association's (NPCA) Northwest Regional Director, Dale has become a crusader in the movement to preserve wildlife in the Pacific Northwest and its National Parks. I recently spoke with Dale about his life and his thoughts on protecting the North Cascades.

Dale has had a long and productive professional career. After receiving his undergraduate degree in Wildlife Biology from Oregon State University in 1953, he became a California state park ranger, a planner for the Army Corps of Engineers and eventually the chief of natural resources for the Corps' environmental planning office in Cincinnati, Ohio.

After working for the Corps, he received a one year fellowship in 1977 from the American Political Science Association to work in Washington D.C. on environmental policy issues. He spent the next 13 years working on Capitol Hill, becoming the staff director of the subcommittee on Parks for the House Committee on Interior Affairs. He worked on national park protection and wilderness issues, becoming an expert on park legislation. Some of the legislation he was involved in included protecting the forests of the Samoan Islands, establishing the Great Basin National Park in Nevada and creating the Holocaust museum and the Vietnam memorial in Washington D.C..

The son of a logger, Dale was born in Tenino, Washington, and is a third generation Washingtonian. As a boy he relished the outdoors and often enjoyed fishing in the Skagit River for salmon. His boyhood passion for fishing is still with him today. "I fish as much as I possibly can," he told me. He recently caught a 924-pound Blue Marlin off the coast of Cabo San Lucas, Mexico. Some of his favorite fly fishing

spots here in the Northwest are the Kamloops River in British Columbia and the Yakima River in Eastern Washington.

Five years ago his love of the Northwest brought him back here to retire and accept the Regional Director's position for the Northwest regional office of NPCA, which covers Washington, Oregon, Idaho and Montana. NPCA is a 76 year old organization dedicated to preserving America's only truly protected areas - national parks and wilderness areas. It has over 450,000 members nationwide.

Dale's goal is to slow the damage to national parks from human use and development, and to assess what needs to be done for further protection of these areas. More recently he has turned his attention towards establishing an international park in the North



Dale Crane

Sean Cosgrove

Cascades.

Huxley College professor John Miles is writing a book on the history of the NPCA and is a member of the Washington State Forest Practices Board. He said Dale's work with the NPCA has been important for protecting the North Cascades. "Dale is the key person and the principle organizer of the effort to promote the park. NPCA has been the main sponsor that brought together the coalition of organizations that endorse the park," John said.

Dale said the U.S. and Canada have taken different approaches to land management and both have a lot to share with each other in terms of landscape management. Dale thinks the international park will be good ground for exchange of scientific and practical information between the two countries.

When I asked him what he thought would happen if the park is not established, he said there will be a short term reduction of logging in the U.S. because there is not a lot left to cut. On the Canadian side we will see continued logging that will further decimate the ecosystem, and as a result of this we will not have the ability to revive the large mammal populations.

Unless we can further protect the Cascades, the outlook is not very hopeful, Dale said. "I think there is a very good chance that the entire North Cascades will be turned into a tree farm, which entails a large loss of biological diversity. The past and the evidence of so many degraded areas around the Northwest make this almost inevitable."

When I asked him why he thinks there is so much resistance to the international park, his response was, "There has been a rural American revolution because of the growing awareness that natural resources are limited. As they become scarcer, people fight for them more. People also become more afraid and agitated. A lot of people perceive our natural resources as something to use and not to protect."



Canadian Cascades, as seen from the United States

Peter Lewinsohn

The environmental problem in the North Cascades that concerns him the most is the decline of the salmon. "You can certainly have major concerns over grizzlies, lynx, marten, fisher and other animals. They are legitimate concerns and their extinction would bother me a great deal. But the Northwest is so intertwined with the salmon that to lose them from the North Cascades would be tragic. Plus, the salmon in themselves are a key to sustaining the ecosystem. So many avian and terrestrial species depend on the salmon in one way or another. The continued loss of the salmon would have an incredible impact on declining diversity of the Cascades."

Dale is interested in an international park because he has always thought the North Cascades were special. They had large runs of salmon and the mountains are still relatively pristine.

"I think we need to create this park while there is still the opportunity," Dale said. "The nature of the landscape itself demands protection. Since it transcends international boundaries, it is essential that there be a mechanism to get cooperative management between the two nations so that we can protect the ecosystem."

"From a standpoint of international relations, international parks are a concrete expression of friendship and goodwill." 🐾

ARCHEOLOGY

Tells a Deeper Story

By Peter Lewinsohn



Bob Mierendorf studies artifacts of prehistoric cultures.

When hiking in the rough mountains of North Cascades National Park I can't help but imagine that I'm an explorer traveling in the footsteps of pioneers like Lewis and Clark, charting this untamed wilderness where few people have set foot. But am I right? Were these colo-

nists really pioneers? Were they the first people to explore this area, to fish its rivers and hunt its game? Archeology tells a richer, more truthful story. A story which contains a much deeper history, one that is far from complete.

Over 11,000 years ago, when humanity was scattered and small,

moving about in hunting and gathering groups, native people inhabited the area known today as the North Cascades. In Eastern Wenatchee a number of bone tools and spear points used to hunt mammoths and other extinct animals were found and dated by archeologists at 11,200 years old.

High in the Upper Skagit River Valley lies a large chert quarry which was used for 7,600 years to make cutting and hunting tools. Near this quarry archeologists have found remains of log houses and fishing and hunting artifacts, which provide evidence that people lived in this spot permanently 4,000 to 200 years ago.

Bob Mierendorf is the North Cascades National Park Archeologist. He has uncovered numerous archeological sites and unearthed many ancient mysteries. But his job entails much more. "As an archeologist my job isn't just to scientifically study artifacts, my real job is to get beyond the study of the artifacts - to take that information and apply it to understanding the human behavior and human history of this park," he said.

For the last ten years Bob has worked at piecing together the story of the park and the native groups which lived in and relied on the wilderness. Each discovery adds an-

Peter Lewinsohn

other chapter to the book, yet it also raises more questions. Bob sees his work as an unfolding mystery. "For everything we find we have ten times the questions."

Trying to put together 11,000 years of Cascades history might seem a rather daunting task, but for Bob it's a satisfying challenge. "Everyday I get to build on what came before and keep moving things along."

Recently Bob uncovered a 600 year old site where native people used to dry salmon. Bob found that fish bones and soil were still oily from the fish. From other sites he's been able to tell what animals these groups ate by finding the remains of cooking hearths encrusted with the bones of mountain goats, elk, beaver, deer and birds.

Much of the information about the groups who once roamed the park comes from the stories and knowledge of today's Native American who claim ancestry from these ancient peoples. Many tribes bring their elders to look at artifacts that have been uncovered in the park.

Native American groups have a vested interest in the archeological work that Bob does. Much of their history is tied up in the North Cascades, yet they know only bits and pieces of it. This is because of the widespread deaths of Native Americans by the diseases and guns of white settlers in the 1800s.

Many of the ancient stories of their roots and history were passed down through oral tradition. When the elders were killed the stories of their heritage, rituals, and traditions died with them.

Today, there are still areas in the North Cascades Park that Native Americans hold sacred. It is im-

portant to them that these areas be unscarred by logging, roads and campgrounds. Bob works with these groups and the National Park Service to designate these areas as places that will remain untouched.

The archeology of the North Cascades has come a long way in the last 25 years. When Bob first started working for the Park Service in 1984, only 17 archeological sites had been discovered. Today there are 230.

In the '70s most archeologists believed that native people avoided the harsh landscape of the North Cascades, but now we are beginning to discover the rich history and diversity of the people who roamed the Cascades long ago. Although archeology has uncovered a lot of history in North Cascades National Park, it is still in its infancy. The history of the Cascades landscape and the indigenous people that used it is not completely understood.

What we do know is that there were a large number of groups who evolved with the changing landscape. They were hunters and gatherers. Some lived permanently by rivers, while most migrated with the seasons and followed food sources. Many used sophisticated hunting and fishing techniques and were excellent mountaineers. Our knowledge at this time is at best a skeletal outline. Bob sees his work as this: "Whatever my career is in this park, and however much I might accomplish, it will just be a minute amount. That's where we're at."

The archeology of the North Cascades is only beginning to be told, and the mysteries of this park are slowly being unearthed. What lies ahead for North Cascades archeology is uncertain, but it's guaranteed that the key to the history of this region's ancestry lies buried within our state's mountainous interior. 🐾



Pete Lewinson

Ancient arrowheads from the North Cascades.

"LANDSCAPES MIRROR AND LANDSCAPES MATTER"

By Colleen Williams

Walking through an old-growth forest on the west side of the North Cascades is a peaceful experience. The trees and vegetation on the forest floor are so quiet and peaceful you don't care what time of day it is, or whether you're going in the right direction.

The longer I stayed, the more I realized the forest has a life all its own. I see that fallen rotting logs support new trees and shrubs and ferns. Living trees support moss and lichen. I knew that, underneath all this, fungi, mingled with roots, keeps everything connected. I came to believe that the forest is one organism, and should not be interfered with.

Many endangered animals call old-growth forests home. The pileated woodpecker needs standing dead trees for the insects living within. The marbled murrelet flies hundreds of miles out to sea and returns to nest in the trees of the ancient forests, which it shares with the northern spotted owl.

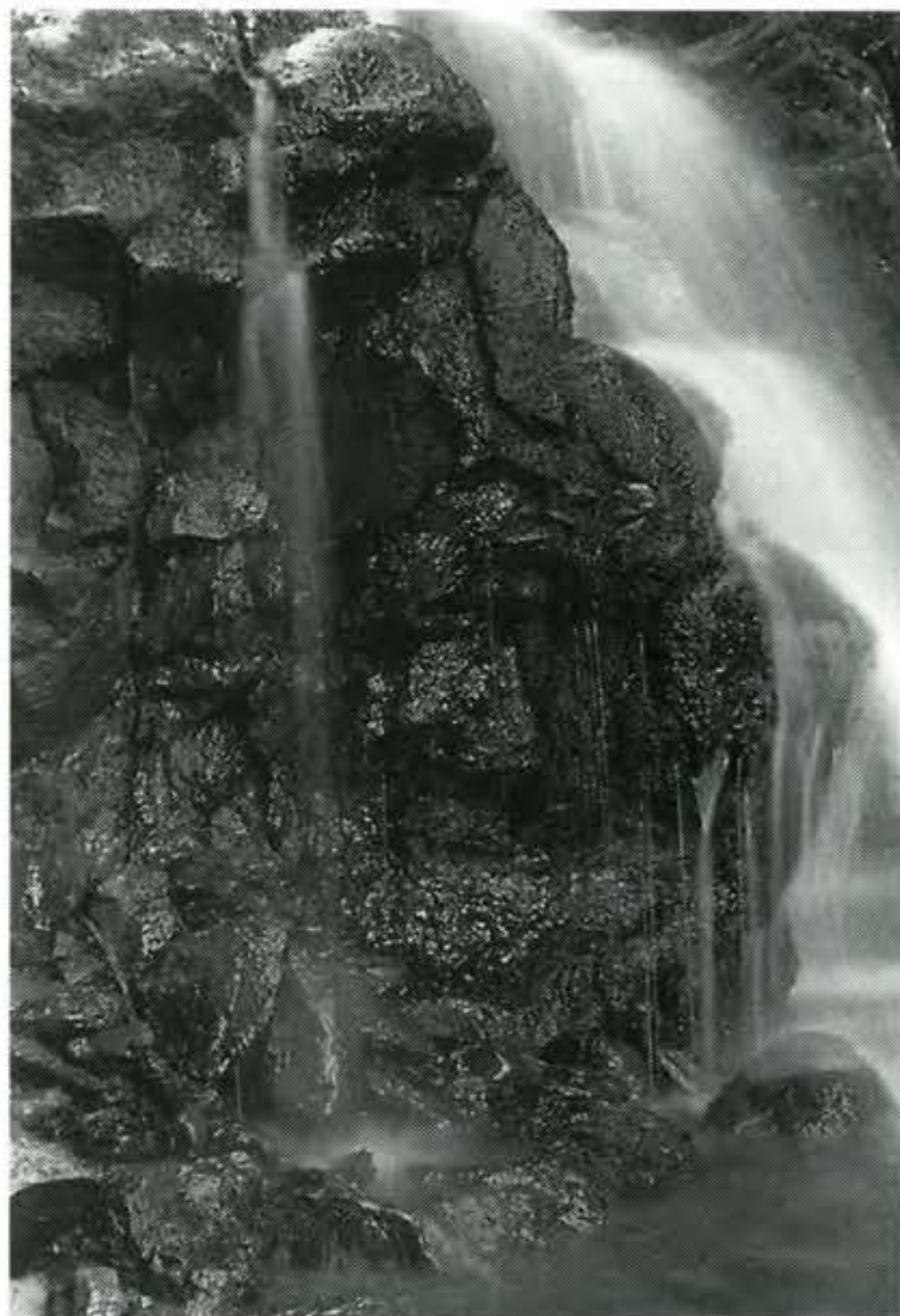
If you hike in an old-growth forest, you'll see that at an elevation of up to 1,000 feet, the forest is dominated by Douglas fir and Western hemlock. Douglas firs grow rapidly in the sun, so they are found where the land was once burned or clear cut. Stands of Western hemlock are found where there has been no such disturbance. They take about 600 years to establish themselves as the dominant

tree species. In very moist areas, you'll see that Western red cedars prevail. At elevations higher than 1,000 feet, colder temperatures make the western hemlock give way to the Pacific silver fir.

North Cascades researcher Evan J. Frost, in his paper "Sustaining Biological Diversity in the Northern Cascades: Current Problems and Future Prospects," presented some pretty scary facts about the forests of the North Cascades. The good news is that all native plant and animal species known to exist at the time of European settlement are still here. Unfortunately, less than five percent of old-growth forests remain at an elevation of below 2,000 feet.

This does not bode well for the salmon and those of us who wish to see the return of healthy salmon runs. *Seattle Times* science reporter Bill Dietrich, in his book "The Final Forest," wrote that a river surrounded by old growth can support seven times more salmon than a river surrounded by second-growth forest.

Two other effects of settlement, roads and trails, can do a great deal



Andy Eckart

Waterfall near Heliotrope Ridge

of damage to the North Cascades' biological order. It is especially important that roads and trails, which are often put in parks, are kept outside sensitive habitats, says Western Washington University ecology professor Arlene Doyle.

"They must keep development minimized in areas that are at risk from a regional perspective," she said. "Park people may say, 'We've got lots of old growth in the park,' but 95 percent of the original forest in the country has been lost."

Roads create several problems,

Doyle said. The most obvious effect is that plant and animal habitat is lost. Another problem is that roads divide land areas. The roads act as barriers which many animals cannot or will not cross. Animals might be separated from a necessary stream. Also, roads can divide populations so that there aren't enough males or females to maintain a healthy population.

Lastly, ecological problems develop with the edges the roads create.

"Along roadsides it's easy for opportunistic species to spread," Doyle said.

That's because the lack of tree cover leads to drier soil, higher temperatures and temperature fluctuations. Native plants can't live in those conditions, but non-native plants will often flourish. They come in on trucks, fall off and grow where they land. Doyle said these foreign species can penetrate 1,500 feet into the forest interior. This leads to competition between the native and new plants and many animals, including deer and elk, often won't eat exotic plants.

Foreign species aren't limited to plants that fall off trucks. Foreign animals, such as birds, also move in. One recent arrival is the cowbird, which leaves its eggs in other bird's nests.

To put into perspective how destructive road edges are, Doyle said if a 100 hectare (40.47 acre) patch is bisected twice, once by a 10-meter-wide road running east to west and another running north to south, two percent of the habitat is cut, but the forest interior is reduced by 50 percent.

George Kraft of the biology department agrees an international

park would have to be run carefully.

"Deforestation of any kind is hard on streams," he said. Creatures living in streams get nutrients from the streamside vegetation. Loggers may sometimes leave a buffer of trees between the stream and the clear cut area, but that small stand of trees can't protect the streams from being clogged with silt. The siltation kills off the stream's insects, which affects the food web, right on up to grizzly bears.

"It would take a lot of baseline knowledge to manage water that runs into the Skagit and the rest that runs into Lake Chelan," he added. "They're two totally different systems."

He said streams in the west often run through steep canyons and dark forests, while farther east the streams are more exposed. Western streams also depend more on leaves for nutrients. He added that park managers would need to look at rivers and their tributaries to see how much the streams are naturally scoured.

"It's not good biology to say every section of every stream needs to be protected forever," he said. "We need to let sections go, and let them establish themselves in the natural order."

Frost's paper indicated how important it is for the water systems to be managed correctly. He wrote that 15 out of 39 major river systems in the Mt. Baker-Snoqualmie National Forest are in a "degraded" condition. In B.C.'s lower Fraser Valley, 70 percent of the wetlands have been lost and 85 percent have been lost in Washington's

Okanogan and Similkameen valleys.

The endangered Pacific fisher, a weasel-like animal, needs to live by streamsides, and numerous runs of salmon are also endangered. Protecting streams from further destruction would help these animals.

While the western side of the North Cascades has Western hemlocks and Douglas firs, the eastern side has Ponderosa pine. Driving east over Stevens Pass, I was struck by the contrast between the dense, lush forests of the west and the dry, sparsely vegetated hills of the east. The rainshadow effect, which causes the eastward flow of moisture to stop at the Cascades, makes the eastern side of the Cascades look so different from the western side I felt I had traveled much farther than I actually had. As hideous as I originally found it, by the end of my day there, I grew to appreciate the area's subtle beauty.

Apparently, the eastern side hasn't



Douglas fir forest in morning fog

Andy Eckart

always been so barren.

"As a tree, (the Ponderosa pine) was historically more common than it is today," said Terry Lillybridge, Botanist and Area Ecologist for Wenatchee National Forest.

Lillybridge said the Ponderosa pine is found at elevations of 4,000 feet and below. The only pine stands at peak growth are in the lower elevations in the Wenatchee area, where the land is too dry for other conifers.

"Typically, many Ponderosa pine stands are dominated by bunch grasses," Lillybridge said. Blue bunch and wheatgrass are common bunch grasses. Bitterbrush is also common, and it is these plants that make north-central Washington a shrub/steppe environment. This area of the state is not known for its lush vegetation, so if you do see any grasses or bushes scattered around, most likely it is one of these just mentioned.

Like the old-growth forests of the western side, the Ponderosa pine areas have unwelcome foreign plants. The most prevalent is cheatgrass, an invader which Lillybridge said came over from Eurasia at least 100 years ago.

Unlike its invading counterparts in the west, cheatgrass didn't need to stow away on logging trucks. The plant instead used its little hairs to stick to clothing and animal fur. Cheatgrass has been successful at invading the area because livestock graze on the native plants, and because of the fire suppression that has taken place since the arrival of European settlers.

Every year forest fires rage through Eastern Washington, most recently near Entiat, Chelan and Leavenworth. From the perspec-

tive of humans and animals fire seems like a horrible thing. Nothing good appears to come out of the blazes. However, when considering the plant life, fire preserves the traditional landscape.

While traveling through the areas most affected by last summer's fires, I didn't expect to see unscathed trees and grass. I could only tell there had been a fire because of the charred land. Lillybridge explained that Ponderosa pines, along with many species of bunchgrasses, are quite fire resistant and are not injured by low-intensity fires.

Before fire suppression, small fires burned every five to 15 years. Any non-native plants were eventually killed off. Now, Lillybridge said, Grand fir trees are invading mid-elevation areas and are becoming the dominant species. Ponderosa pines can't compete, he said, because the pines need direct sunlight to grow, so they can't infiltrate grand fir stands. I was surprised that fire suppression has changed the composition of pine forests.

The lack of forest-cleaning pro-

vided by fire has also hurt the snow shoe hare, which feeds on the grasses following fires. Most of the endangered lynx's diet consists of snow shoe hare. Forests in the eastern Cascades have the largest population of lynx in the lower 48 states, but fire suppression and road building have put this pointy-eared wildcat in peril.

Our forests face severe degradation from road building and logging. A natural landscape is important to many people for many reasons, be it spiritual health, physical health or as a way to attract tourists.

The geographer D.W. Meinig once said, "Landscapes mirror and landscapes matter. They tell us much about the values we hold and at the same time affect the quality of lives we lead."

The people of the North Cascades have been molded by their surroundings. I hope we value the preservation of the native plants and animal species, because our well-being and regional identity depend on it. 🐾



Mike Wewer

Decaying logs feed, fertilize and house forest residents.

A PREDATOR IN THE PARK

The Grizzly Bears' Future in the Cascades

By Britney Bartlett-Curley

"Only those able to see the pageant of evolution can be expected to value its theater, the wilderness, or its outstanding achievement, the grizzly."

—Aldo Leopold, *A Sand County Almanac*

"We have this interesting paradox with grizzly bears," said Anne Braaten, a National Park Service Biologist. "On one hand, children are given these cute teddy bears; on the other hand we have the perception of the big, bad bear."

Ironically, the teddy bear concept stems from the experience of President Theodore "Teddy" Roosevelt, hunter and early twentieth century conservationist.

Roosevelt was hunting in Mississippi in 1902 when he refused to shoot a defenseless bear cub tethered to a tree by the hunting guides. After the story gained national attention a Russian immigrant started selling handmade stuffed bears, which later became known as "Teddy's bear."

Unfortunately, the real life grizzly doesn't enjoy the celebrated history of its synthetic counterpart.

To the contrary, until the early 1900s grizzlies were systematically exterminated by trappers, miners, hunters and settlers. Between 1827 and 1857 Hudson Bay Trapping Company boasted the shipment of 3,788 grizzly bear hides from Washington's Cascades to trading posts all over the country. Both Canadian and U.S. governments paid bounties for bear pelts, while government agents killed bears on sight as part of a predator control program. The great bear, which once ranged from Alaska to northwestern Mexico and everywhere west of the Mississippi, had virtually disappeared except from a few remote areas. Public concern finally led to protection of the remaining isolated grizzly populations: In 1975 the grizzly bear (*Ursus arctos*) was listed as threatened under the Endangered Species Act. Canada listed its grizzly as a "vulnerable species," but still issues about 350 grizzly bear hunting licenses per year.

Braaten, now in her early thirties, became

interested in bears when she spent her summers working at a cannery in Alaska. "We used to go to the dump when we were through working and watch bears eat garbage," she recalled. "I realized bears were intelligent animals with a complex social structure." Braaten later earned her master's degree studying grizzly-human interaction. Her research shaped bear management at Katmai National Park.

Katmai is an expansive Alaskan wilderness. But is there a place for grizzlies in the North Cascades? Do any still remain here? Are their numbers already so small that a comeback is impossible?



Erich Raudebaugh

This massive animal, weighing as much as 1000 pounds, is hardly ever abundant. For one thing, it is easily disturbed by humans. It may be hard to imagine, but this giant is leery when crossing roads or clearcuts and frequently turns and runs when confronted by humans.

North Cascades National Park and adjoining nation forest wilderness areas are within grizzly bear "recovery zones" established by the Interagency Grizzly Bear Committee (IGBC), composed of Canadian and American biologists and agency officials. A six-year study, completed in 1991 by an independent group of biologists, reviewed data and estimated 10 to 20 bears remain in the North Cascades. A loosely estimated population goal for the recovery plan has been set at between 200 and 400 grizzlies. This recovery plan provides for re-evaluation every five years, based on new biological data. The plan and any changes must comply with the National Environmental Policy Act.

To boost the population, the recovery plan provides for introducing a few young, healthy, Canadian

form and involve residents of the North Cascades region about the grizzly. Experts feel that grizzly bears and people can co-exist, with only minimal restrictions on recreational uses. But before bears are relocated, residents and visitors will be taught how to conduct themselves in bear country.

Because grizzly bears can easily become habituated to human food and garbage, sanitation is a key concern, but this concept is controversial.

"There have been no sightings or contact with grizzly bears that anybody knows of and on my trips into the Cascades I'm required to raise my food 15 feet off the ground," protests Loren McGovern, Publicity Chairman for



Washington's Backcountry Horsemen Association.

"Don't make these rules before it's necessary to do it - that's just one of the things they'll ask us to do (if grizzlies are present in the North Cascades)."

Braaten, however, maintains this precaution is necessary, regardless of grizzly bear presence because other animals like mountain lions, black bears, deer and raccoons are as likely to pose a threat and get into food. Precautions are advisable with every wild animal: "You can't judge an animal by the size of its teeth!" She personally became painfully aware of this when attacked by a park squirrel accustomed to receiving handouts. "It bit me twice and drew blood each time. It was hanging off my hand. I had to shake it off!"

Other grizzly opponents are even more outspoken.

"Recovery means restrictions!" Washington Hound Council President Ted Orr said. "The minute they find grizzly bears they'll shut'er down (trails)." Orr, who is allowed to hunt with the aid of hounds on national forest land, feels that federal biologists sometimes turn their paperwork and numbers around to suit the recovery program.

This is not the case, however, in Yellowstone and Glacier National Parks, where less than two percent of the parks' trails are closed each year because of grizzly activity. Similar closure rates can be expected for the North Cascades.



female bears into remote areas of the Cascades.

The specific number of animals and the intervals of reintroduction have not been established. This concept is based on the grizzly's record as the second slowest reproducing mammal (musk oxen are the slowest). Females reach sexual maturity around five years old and care for their cubs for three years or until they have another litter. During this time the attentive mother teaches her children to hunt, forage and survive.

The recovery plan is controversial, but, as Braaten explained, "A healthy grizzly population represents a host of other species." Grizzlies need large areas of land; they are omnivores, covering their habitat in search of food from ants and plants to elk calves and berries. This means saving the grizzly saves many other species as well. While grizzly bears occasionally kill and eat deer and elk calves, the prey adults flourish because the area supports a vast array of food and water sources free of human development.

An important part of the recovery plan is to in-

Although Orr insisted that Washington is “too populated to handle grizzly bears,” the North Cascades National Park and the four national forest wilderness areas in the recovery zone comprise one of the largest roadless and trailless areas in the lower 48 states. Grizzly experts feel that some parts of the Cascades are remote enough for the bears to spend their entire lives without interfering with humans.

“Grizzly bears are the essence of wilderness: lose the bear and you lose the wild in wilderness,” Braaten said. These bears are wonderful, powerful, playful animals. They’ve coexisted with other animals in the Cascades long before man placed value on their lives and pelts. They have worn pathways on mountain sides, through meadows and across valleys in search of food and each other. Their place in the Cascades is as important as that of any tree or any stream. Conserving the grizzly means conserving the heart of the North Cascades in its natural condition. It means preserving our natural history for our children and generations to follow. 🐾

Grizzly Bear Facts

- The average life span of a grizzly in the wild is 15 to 20 years.
- Grizzly cubs are born bald and totally helpless in winter dens, weighing around one pound.
- An adult female has an average home range of about 70 square miles. Adult males often have a 300 to 500 square mile home range. Home ranges for both sexes often overlap, but conflicts are minimal unless a mother is defending her cubs.
- Grizzlies in the Rocky Mountains weigh anywhere from 250 to 400 pounds.

Tips For Travel in Bear Country

- Never cook or store food within 100 yards of your tent.
- Don’t sleep in the clothes you wore while cooking.
- Bears can be attracted to campsites by the smell of makeup and hygiene products, so store them with food and cooking items.



Photo courtesy of Anne Braaten

Mother grizzly bear and cubs, about six decades ago, at Mt. Baker.

Where Spirituality and the North Cascades Meet

By DeAnna Woolston

When I still attended church, I remember sitting in the pews on Sundays seething with frustration. Something inside of me did not agree with what the priest was saying about the superior standing of humans in the world. In my quiet discontent, I looked around at the other silent parishioners and thought I was the only one who dissented. Later I began to realize how I must have looked to the other people who may have also been questioning what the priest was saying. We were all silent witnesses.

The way I was raised is rooted in Christianity. My concern for animals is just as paramount in who I am and yet I never mixed my spirituality and my reverence for all of creation. For a time I turned away from religion because I did not think it could coexist with my ecological views. Even when I returned to Catholicism, I carried my Bible in one hand and recyclables in another. Discussions with a Bellingham Lutheran pastor, a clergy staff member of the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle and the campus Catholic minister at Western give me new hope of uniting the two most integral parts of my being.

For so long my religion has told me humans rank above all nature, but my studies on the environment have caused me to lament how poorly people fit into the natural scheme. "Creation-centered spirituality," a new way of interpreting old fundamentals, allowed me to see myself as a part of the circle of things: perhaps different from the squirrels and the trees, just as they are different from one another, but no higher nor lesser in value.

As Shirley Osterhaus, campus Catholic minister explained to me, "The universe is central and humans are just one of the spokes in the wheel."

I put my new connected way of looking at things into practice a couple of weeks ago when I took my good friend, Sophie, for a walk in the North Cascades. I knew Sophie would respect my need for spiritual reflection and silence, because she had her own agenda and she is a yellow Labrador retriever not given to blathering.

It was a windy, cloudy day so the parking area was empty. Sophie's sniffer hit the ground before the rest of her body and she immediately took off into her own world. More cautious, I spent some

time collecting my daypack, water bottle and thoughts. When I caught up with Sophie she was already deeply involved with our natural surroundings - clearly finding delight in all that was around her.

I recalled Lynn Peterson, pastor of Christ the Servant Lutheran Church and a former Outward Bound wilderness leader, saying, "I think God likes us to delight. When I am out hiking I don't look up at the sky and say, 'Oh look at all those wonderful stars, God must have created them.' For me, when I go out it's just a healing."

Sophie seemed to be healing herself from the boredom of a fenced-in life. I too wanted to rekindle my senses. In my urban ways I block out droning sounds



Andy Eckart

and forget to notice the sky.

I started by feeling the moss on the base of the large Douglas fir trees above me on both sides of the path. My fingers caressed the bumpy swords of the ferns and the delicate leaves of a huckleberry bush. I remembered Shirley saying the English version of the Genesis story was translated incorrectly.

"According to Matthew Fox, the theologian who has done studies on Hebrew, the more accurate interpretation of what the English translation of the Bible refers to as 'dominion' or 'subdue' is 'caress,'" Shirley said. "Humans do not have dominion over the earth. Humans need to caress the earth." I checked the bible for the Genesis passage she was referring to.

"God blessed them and said to them, 'Be fruitful and increase in number, fill the earth and subdue it. Rule over the fish of the sea and the birds of the air and over every living creature that moves on the ground.'" Genesis 1:28

Fill the earth and caress it. Caress the fish, the birds and every living creature. . .

Slowly with my touching life, I began to filter the sounds around me. I heard the creaking of the massive trees in the wind, huge crowns swaying and bobbing in a wild dance. I walked with Sophie for about two hours. I watched her pick up a scent and let it lead her to the next destination. I copied her style and allowed my interest to bound from one natural object to the next, which at times meant backtracking on the trail.

Finally we came to a small creek where a fallen tree bridged the waterway. I sat on the log in the middle of the creek - Sophie sat in the middle of the creek itself. I looked up and pondered why the sky was the only place God was thought to reign.

"Heaven is under our feet as well as over our heads" - Thoreau.

David Bloom, Director of Urban Ministry for the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle said, "People think of beautiful parts of the natural world as 'God's country.' Something that is beautiful in the natural world is thought of in the same breath as being con-



Sophie

Andy Eckart

nected to God. So, implicitly people do understand the spiritual connection between nature and God."

With the constant rushing sound of the creek, I wondered why that connection does not carry through in people's actions. Why is our lifestyle separate from the flow of life? When I am in school or even sitting at home in my dark little apartment, I live as if I am never going to die. Spirituality becomes a refuge for me only when I am scared to die or worried about some day-to-day problem.

"Part of the reason the church has taken so long to arrive at a sense of environmental consciousness is because our culture has become alienated from nature," David said.

For that moment, sitting on the dead log, I did not take my future for granted. I only appreciated that moment of life. Sophie looked up at me with that huge open mouth - not unlike the eternal grin of a dolphin. When I asked Lynn if she felt humans were a superior species, she responded, "No, I think they're just different manifestations of the holy substance we are all made of." That is exactly how I saw it: Sophie and the Douglas firs all around me were just different sculptures but made up of the same life force.

Out of the corner of my eye I caught a strip of orange flagging whirling in the wind 25 feet from the stream. When I worked in the woods of Alaska during the summer, flagging was used for timber layout - each color representing something different. I wondered if the orange strip was meant to provide a buffer

for the little creek during a planned logging. Thinking of the little creek dried up and surrounded by stumps, I recalled Shirley's list of oppressions.

"I heard a lot of voices of women being oppressed, the poor being oppressed, from my own experiences of oppression and later I saw that the earth was also being oppressed," Shirley said. "Then I saw how all the oppression connected. It was probably the most painful reality for me, but it was also in the end what made that new door open."

The new door was opened for Lynn, David and myself as well. Behind the door, a different kind of enlightenment, called creation-centered spirituality, provides an appealing entrance for many people today.

"I think people are changing now because of the state of the planet," Shirley said. "We are becoming more conscious that something is happening and we need to respond to it. We are looking at what we are doing and comparing it to God's."

Whatever the reason for this shift, I am glad to see a definitive movement in Christianity to reassess the Bible's message for humanity's role in nature. Shirley said the teachings of other religions are being integrated into Christianity so it is becoming a more universe-centered rather than man-centered faith. According to Lynn Peterson, a lot of non-western believers are teaching American Christians what Christianity is about.

While Sophie and I walked back to my car, I thought more about the orange flagging. Last quarter I went on a camping trip to Cascade Creek. The campsite was surrounded by clearcuts, at times on steep graded hills. In the past, Christianity has been used as the justification for our lack of respect toward the environment. Anytime we got into trouble with nature we used the Genesis story to support our actions. As a frontier culture, we took for granted all that sustained us and trampled over that which we recognized only as commodities.

I see that changing now as some powerful Christian organizations gathering to advocate actions which lend to protecting and respecting the natural environment. The Council of Churches, Earth Ministry and the Interfaith Council all endorse the resolution for a proposed Cascades International Park.

"We hope to help eliminate the idea of borderlines and help people realize ecosystems do not have boundaries but need to be handled as a whole," said Elaine Somers, leader of the Ecology/Theology Task Force of the Council of Churches of Greater Seattle.

It was odd for me to hear a representative of a religious group speaking passionately for environmental wellbeing. David said religious organizations such

as these have the freedom of advocacy, while individual congregations are more likely to stand back and take a passive position on issues.

"The Council of Churches takes progressive positions that churches alone are scared to take," explained David. "We make a clear stand on justice issues and are unequivocal. There is, in our work, a deep respect for connections between creation and spirituality."

Sophie's muddy paws reluctantly crept into my car as we prepared to drive back to Bellingham. She looked content with her huge tongue vibrating in rhythm with her raspy panting. Though I too was reluctant to leave the North Cascades, I got into the car with a feeling of tired satisfaction. Religion as I have learned, is a vehicle for humans to reconnect to the environment. The North Cascades is a place where that joining occurred for me. 🐾



Andy Eckart

For some, nature and spirituality go hand in hand.

